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THURSDAY, MAY 26TH 2016

WRAP AROUND GROUP ON THE MARCH! PAGE 3

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DOES GARETH RATE X-MEN APOCALYPSE? PAGE 21

PENARTH SCHOOL GOES BACK IN TIME!

COGAN Primary School opened its doors to the community to celebrate its heritage.

On Friday, May 20, the school held an open day taking a look at the history of Cogan and the work of the children, who have been researching it in their own way.

Children from various years in the school explored different aspects of Cogan's past, including the different toys that existed, how school uniforms have changed, who lived in their houses in the 1800s and the school's history.

The children's work was on display, along with artefacts and photographs from the past. There was also a 1940s tea room providing refreshments for the visitors.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

A 'life-changer' for Tilly

THANKS TO THE JAM FUND

by GEM REPORTER

Tilly (on left, above) and her sister Maisy love the new soft play area, which was funded by The Jam Fund.

THE gift of a £6,000 play area for a seven-year old Barry girl will be "life-changing" her parents have told The GEM.

Tilly Davies has cerebral palsy and is unable to stand or walk unaided. But the determined little girl is able to move around quickly on her backside, using her arms, and one of her great pleasures is playing out in the garden.

Tilly's parents, Danii and and Dave, were "thrilled" when The Jam Fund stepped in to fund a special, soft play surface for Tilly.

Unlike grass, the rubberised surface dries within half an hour of the rain stopping, and unlike concrete and grass, her clothes aren't torn or made dirty.

Danii said: "It was a wonderful thing for Paul of The Jam Fund to do in memory of his son, Jamie. It is life-changing for Tilly and us. She has gained so much in terms of her independence."

It means Danii can let Tilly go out into the garden, safe in the knowledge that she will be playing in a safe environment.

Dave said: "The play surface is so comfortable – we can't thank Paul enough."

Tilly and sister Maisy (5) go to Palmerston Primary School, which Danii says is "amazing" in its care for Tilly.

Tilly was born early, at 28 weeks, and weighed just 1lb 13oz. She needed a heart operation and laser eye surgery. A bleed to her brain resulted in cerebral palsy.

Danii said: "Whenever Tilly is asked what she wants to do in life, she says: '*Walk on my own like all my friends*'.

"This can be quite heartbreaking as her mum, but if Tilly has taught me anything in her short life, it's that you can do anything if you put your mind to it and to never ever give up!

"Tilly's cerebral palsy is not typical. She doesn't have much stiffness and is extremely low tone – this is why we are trying to raise funds so that we can pay for specialist physiotherapy treatment and any equipment Tilly might need to help her achieve her wish to walk."

Tilly's grandparents bought a special walking frame costing £1,800, and physiotherapy sessions cost £168 an hour.

If anyone would like to make a donation to help Tilly, they should go to the following link: http://just4children.org/children-helped-2016/tillys-wish-to-walk/

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

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Readers' Letters

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• Letters and e-mails MUST include your FULL address and a contact telephone number.

An email address alone is not sufficient!

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail.

'EMPTY THE POO BINS!'

Photograph taken at Ogmore recently.

FOLLOWING the comments made by readers in the May 12 edition, I would like to add one other thing.

I am a responsible dog owner, who always picks up any deposits left by my dogs. However, the Vale Council is not helping the situation by failing to empty the bins.

I wrote to the council on two occasions with attached photographs of the state of the bins. They were full to the brim and overflowing all over the surrounding grass. I have not had a response from them.

So if the council wants dog owners to dispose of their doggy poo in a responsible way, then empty the bins so that there is somewhere to put it!

Ann Harrison-Power, Bridgend

Solution to the dog fouling?

I AM a responsible dog owner and I completely see that the irresponsible ones spoil it for us regarding access to beaches.

That said, I agree that Whitmore Beach should allow dogs, say up to 11am in the mornings and after 6pm in the evenings, or similar timings.

I take my dogs down Jackson's or the Old Harbour, but Whitmore certainly would be the most convenient.

Fouling and allowing dogs to run riot while people are picnicking, spoils it for dog owners, as well as those who do not have dogs.

Other anti-social beach behaviour that has nothing to do with dogs, includes rubbish, hot barbecues being buried (remember the little girl who had the soles of her feet burnt?) screaming kids and swearing adults. I have a suggestion regarding the fouling problem: it's virtually impossible to catch someone not picking up after their dog, so why not have the dog wardens/staff in normal clothing patrolling the beach and randomly asking dog owners to, "*Show me your poo bags"?*

If the person does not have any, then they get a fine. If someone does not intend to pick up after their dog, they won't have any bags on them.

I appreciate that this is not 100 per cent foolproof, but it's a start. This happened to my mother who lives in Nottinghamshire, a council official approached her, and she was only too glad to show them her poo bags!

She disposed of any deposits in the next bin she passed.

M Birch, Barry.

'Punch and Judy helps children learn about the world'

JB Thurlow of Rhoose (GEM letters, May 19) asked 'Who in their right mind sits on the council and dreamt this one up?'

I can tell you who it was, but first I would like to clear up some misconceptions about 'Punch and Judy'.

First of all, let's blow the misconception that 'Punch and Judy' encourages/promotes domestic violence right out of the water.

Punch is very obviously the villain of the piece, by the end of the show, he is exposed for the misogynist brute he is, is made to look thoroughly ridiculous and gets his come-uppance at the end.

Children in the audience recognise that immediately – that's why they boo Mr Punch. Their theatre appreciation instincts are obviously in much better trim than the adults who want to ban it.

If you ban 'Punch and Judy' then you should also ban Shakespeare – think of Petruchio in *Taming of the Shrew* – and let's not mention the violence, tortures and body counts in the histories and tragedies. The 'Punch and Judy' show is actually as intrinsic a part of our culture and theatre tradition as Shakespeare.

Mr Punch is a British version of 'Pulcinalla' – one of the stock Commedia D'el Arte characters; Shakespeare's 'withered slippered Pantaloon' is a Comedia D'el Arte character. The Commedia D'el Arte also gave us the Pierrot show and the Harlequinade.

There is another point much more important than all this and it is very simple. The world is full of bad stuff and the best thing we can do for children is not to pretend it doesn't exist, but to equip them to deal with it. Our best means of doing this is through story and theatre.

Little Red Riding Hood disobeyed her mother and spoke to a stranger in the forrest. The stranger turned out to be the Big Bad Wolf and nearly ate her.

The story doesn't frighten, because it all comes right in the end when the errant Little Red Riding Hood is rescued by the kind woodcutter – but children get the warning – *'Don't speak to strangers in the wood in case it's the Big Bad Wolf'*.

The story of Mr Punch teaches that some men are not nice to their wives. That is something every little girl needs to know – if she doesn't, she might end up married to one.

Some little boys – the ones who happen to be bigger than the other little boys in their class – think it's fun to get their own way by hitting people. What happens to Mr Punch, clearly shows that growing up to be the sort of bloke who knocks his wife about is not a good idea.

This is how children learn to deal with, or better still avoid, the cruelties and injustices of the adult world – and the way the adult world is going, children need that warning more than ever.

Oh, I nearly forgot, that person on the council who wants to ban the 'Punch and Judy Show'? It's the one who sends me leaflets telling me I can put my recycling out 'co-mingled' because he thinks I don't know what 'mixed' means. We have to be patient with him, he doesn't get out much.

David Alexander, Barry Island.

'Better out of EU than in!'

ANOTHER propaganda leaflet dropped on my doormat today.

I am sick and tired of all this talk of 'facts' about what will happen if we leave the EU: nothing – repeat nothing – is a fact until it has actually happened!

It is all guesswork until then. All we can say is what may happen if we come out.

But if we stay in, one thing is certain and that is that the EU will not stay the same, it can only get worse.

They don't want to be reformed, they want ever-closer union and a complete federal United States of Europe.

I would have thought young people would want to vote out!

Aren't the young supposed to be anti-establishment? Don't they all want excitement, rather than mundane same-old same-old?

And what is more exciting than coming out of a stranglehold and starting afresh on our own?

A Turner, Bridgend.

'Care home's staff deserve high praise'

I WISH to write to praise the staff at Springbank Nursing, Barry, as care homes often receive bad press.

I would like to say to anyone in the difficult position of placing a loved one in a care home, your worries can be set aside.

Warm, caring, friendly, welcoming, making you feel at ease, and support given to relatives – nothing ever too much trouble.

My mother, Hilary Whyte, had been a resident for the past three years, and sadly passed away recently.

The care, kindness and dignity shown was second to none.

I wish to thank the wonderful, dedicated staff, whom I hold in very high regard.

Gillian Whyte (daughter), Barry.

'THANK YOU' TO GOOD SAMARITANS

MAY I use your newspaper to thank the people who came to my assistance when I had a nasty fall in Holton Road, Barry, last Saturday. I fell over a paving stone and broke my nose and wrist, along with other injuries.

Had it not been for the rapid action of two quick-thinking boys and the two women who stayed with me until the paramedics came to my assistance, I may have been further injured.

I would like to thank them; so if they respond to this letter on 07967 431 001, it would be appreciated.

Once again, thank you to everyone who helped.

Mrs Meryl Kuhnell.

Counting the cost of a by-election

TWO weeks ago, Dennnis Harkus wrote to The GEM, arguing the case for leaving the Rhoose county councillor seat – vacant due to the tragic death of Coun Phil Clarke – empty until the full round of elections scheduled for May next year.

He pointed out that the cost of holding an election would be "thousands of pounds" and that the experienced Coun Jeff James could easily hold the fort.

However, the cost of holding an election is small beer, compared to the cash paid to the successful candidate, should a by-election go ahead.

He or she will not serve a full year, but will still collect, in my estimate, more than £10,000.

Sadly, there are probably legal constraints that prevent the Vale Council offering Rhoose residents a straight choice between an election and (say) £5,000 worth of books for the library.

However, I for one, think that Mr Harkus has a point.

(Name and address supplied)

'Rhoose needs an alternative voice'

LET the people of Rhoose vote! Dennis Harkus (FocusBARRY member) often speaks a lot of sense, but his request in The GEM Letters page, that Rhoose be spared a council by-election, is totally undemocratic.

Rhoose is already unrepresented in that by size, we probably merit three councillors and to suggest that veteran Jeff James, a Conservative, is capable of holding the fort is an insult.

Rhoose previously elected a very active independent to the post who gave a much-needed alternative view and while there may only be 10 months remaining, we need that voice more than ever.

Costs have already been reduced by abandoning our library – what more do we have to sacrifice?

Steve Reed, Rhoose.

'MORE BREXIT SCARE TACTICS'

IS there no end to the horrors that Brexit will visit upon us? We have not heard yet about bubonic plague, but in the latest of his outbursts, Mr Cameron says Brexit threatens another European war and genocide.

An independent Britain has saved Europe from its empire builders many times in the past – Louis XIV, Napoleon, the Kaiser, Hitler. It is more likely that by showing that life exists outside the EU, we can save ourselves and (hopefully) Europe from its latest empire builder, which is the unelected, unaccountable, irremovable European Commission.

R Bradshaw, Cowbridge

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL JUNE 2)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
26 Thur	09.54	9.1	22.14	9.0
27 Fri	10.37	8.8	22.59	8.7
28 Sat	11.23	8.5	23.52	8.4
29 Sun			12.22	8.3
30 Mon	00.57	8.2	13.21	8.0
31 Tues	02.04	8.3	14.37	8.4
01 Wed	03.09	8.6	15.54	8.7
02 Thur	04.18	9.0	16.57	9.1

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

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Action group's anger at lack of parking on new development site

Protesters say the development at the old Windsor Road United Reform Church should include parking spaces on the site so people don't have to rely on local streets.

NEARLY 90 members of the WRAP Around group in Barry attended a protest on Porthkerry Road – to demonstrate their concern that a proposed housing renovation of Windsor Road United Reform Church does not include on-site parking.

A group spokesman explained: "Fifty eight pictures of cars were held up by the children and adults, to indicate the impact of the development offering no on-site parking.

"The campaign slogan is '58 cars and no on-site parking – they must be parking mad'."

The WRAP Around Group has been formed by residents from the seven roads closest to the church (URC), who have concerns about the planning application submitted to the Vale planning department by DS Properties (Barry) Ltd.

The company argues that there is sufficient parking on local streets.

But a spokesman for the WRAP Around group, said: "If the application is approved, there will be a severe parking impact on our already challenged roads. Although there is ample space to provide on site parking, the developer seems unwilling to allow this in his plans, unlike the excellent conversion of Porthkerry Road Methodist Church opposite the URC site.

"The proposed development includes 22 dwellings with 37 double bedrooms, and a main office that will accommodate up to 80, which together with the other meeting rooms, would be over 100 staff.

"We conservatively estimate that there will be between 50 to 60 extra cars with nowhere to go, other than into the insufficient yet already notionally allocated parking, an amenity which all the existing homes have always used and relied upon.

"With the anticipated increase in traffic and parking, we are also concerned for road safety, with many children crossing Windsor Road, Porthkerry Road and Upper Romilly Road on their way to school."

The group claims that at a FocusBARRY forum on April 13, the developer made it clear that although it is feasible to put in on-site parking, this would not be profitable for him.

"At that meeting, chaired by Dennis Harkus, we were told by the developer, Simon Baston: 'We've all got to compromise'. What we understood him to mean was: I'll take the profits – you take all the cars."

A spokesman for DS Properties Barry Ltd told The GEM: "An independent parking survey has been undertaken and this has demonstrated that the scheme will halve the existing parking requirement.

"It has also identified that at peak periods there is ample spare parking space available to accommodate the development. The site is in a very sustainable location with shops, train stations and bus routes very nearby.

"Previous schemes which have proposed the demolition of the church have been refused and DS Properties, the award winning developer of the Pumphouse, is fully committed to bringing the site back into active use which will secure the future of an attractive and underutilised county treasure."

The spokesman added: "Local firms and contractors will also be used in the redevelopment of the building ensuring that the economic benefits of the development are retained locally.

"We are also signed up with Help to Buy, which will give assistance to first time buyers to get on the property ladder, and we will provide 1 annual bus pass to each of the purchasers."

Y RHODFA BARRIER IN OPERATION

A BARRIER has been installed at the entrance to Y Rhodfa, on the Waterfront area of Barry, in a bid to combat anti-social behaviour. The barrier was put into place and locked for the first time on May 9. It will be opened at 7am in the morning and closed at 7pm on a daily basis by the Vale Council's in-house security team, until it is decided that it is no longer required.

Barry National Spiritualist Church & Centre

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The JAM Fund help out Tilly!

Before 'RTC Safety Surfaces of Burnley' had moved in to do the job in the Davies's back garden. Paul Adamson of The Jam Fund said: "The company was excellent and negotiated the cost with me as it was a charity funded job. Other companies were quoting me upwards of £10,000, but they did it for just £6,000."

After two days of hard work, it now looks like thtis... Tilly and Maisy and their friends have a lovely play area.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Paul Adamson, of The Jam Fund, said: "The fund is able to help children like Tilly thanks to the commitment of those who support us.

"There are people like the Townsend and Lewis families of Barry and Rhoose who collectively raised over £5,000 in support of the fund at events in Rhoose and Sully.

"We have just been awarded a grant of £1,000 from the HQ of the One Stop chain of supermarkets because Viv, the manager of the One Stop store in Winston Road kindly nominated us.'

Paul, who supported in the fund's work by wife Denise, added: "The Jam Fund is seeking team members for the Cardiff University Half Marathon in October.

"Team vests and sponsorship forms are provided and we don't ask people to raise huge sums in sponsorship – £100 is great. I can be contacted at this e mail address and that the charity website JAM fund index has examples of how previous donations have been spent.

To contact Paul, go to: jamfund@sky.com; for more information go to:www.jamfund.co.uk.

Blue Flag awards boost tourism

BARRY ISLAND'S Whitmore Bay and Penarth marina have been awarded the Blue Flag Award – two of five new locations in Wales to receive the quality award.

The sites are now among 47 sites across the country allowed to fly the flags which recognise the highest level of cleanliness and water quality.

Commenting on the announcement of the awards, South Wales Central regional AM and leader of the Welsh Conservatives, Andrew RT Davies, said: "It is vital we continue to invest and support in our tourism sector so the Vale can continue to provide some of the most spectacular sights and strong coastline economies in the United Kingdom."

DINAS VOLUNTEERS' EVENT IS A HIT

The organisations and visitors at the volunteers' event, including Coun Keith Hatton.

THERE was a vast array of organisations at the volunteers event held in the parish hall, Dinas Powys.

Organised by Dinas Powys Voluntary Concern it was an opportunity for residents to see what opportunities exist to offer their services.

Organisations attending included the Scouts, Dinas Powys Community Library, Girl Guides, Citizens Advice, Crossroads, British Heart, Glamorgan Volunteer Services, Alzheimer's Society, Diverse Cymru Cardiff and Vale College, Safer Vale, and Parkinson's Society. White Gecko gave demonstrations of crafts throughout the day.

Coun John Fanshaw chair of Dinas Powys Voluntary Services said that the day proved to be very useful.

He said: "Potential volunteers saw the range of societies available. Contact details were provided for those interested in becoming more involved.

"As a bonus the different organisations were able to exchange information and experiences. This in itself proved to be very useful. Dinas Powys Voluntary Concern is always available to offer advice. Contact us on 02920 513700 or WWW.dpvc.org.uk."

Counc Keith Hatton, chair of the Community Council, was a special guest and welcomed everyone to the event. He said that the community was indebted to all those who so freely gave their time to assist.

CF

Pupils take a trip back in time!

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Susan Sibert, headteacher of Cogan Primary School said: "The children have really enjoyed looking at the history of the area, as they can easily relate to it.

"We had encouraged the children to take a lead role during this project, with our teachers just facilitating. They embraced the task inquisitively and have learnt a lot about Cogan and its history."

Follow The GEM on Twitter - find us @gem_news

Free walks to explore Dinas

THE Dinas Powys summer evening walks will start on Wednesday, June 1, and all walkers are welcome.

The walks are organised by Dinas Powys Community Council, have been running for over 40 years, and have introduced generations of villagers to the countryside around Dinas Powys.

Walks leader Geraint Thomas said: "We are so lucky living here, so close to Cardiff but with superb countryside and a great network of paths to explore.

"These walks are free and anyone who enjoys walking and anyone can come along. There will be some tricky stiles and probably some mud, so good footwear is essential.

"I've put some photos from last year's walks on the 'Dinas Powys Walks' page on Facebook so people can see what it's like."

Walks will take place every Wednesday evening throughout June and start at 7pm from the junction of Mill Road and Millbrook Road, Dinas Powys. Most walks take around one hour, 45 mins.

Campaign to keep Cadoxton School open

A VALE councillor has visited a nursery school in Barry which is under threat of a proposed merger.

Cadoxton Nursery is proposed to merge with Cadoxton Primary School on September 1, but Independent councillor Richard Bertin, who visited the school, thinks this would be the wrong move.

The 100-place nursery was given top marks by Welsh inspectors Estyn.

But Vale Council are looking to save around £60,000 per year through a merger.

A report by the British Association for Early Childhood Education has mentioned that stand-alone nurseries play a valuable role in disadvantaged areas such as Cadoxton.

Coun Bertin recently met headteacher Susan Roberts and chair Tommy O'Neill, who told him that the school provides high quality specialist services and family support that can be only really be focused by being a small school.

He said: "I think it is wrong for Vale Council to bring up a proposed merger again when it has been evidenced that stand-alone nurseries are better in areas such as Cadoxton."

Free 'family geocaching day'

BARRY Communities First is running a free 'family geocaching day' at Porthkerry Park on Wednesday, June 1.

Geocaching uses global positioning system (GPS) to locate 'treasures' that will be hidden throughout the park.

The event will take place from 11am until 2.30 pm. To book a place, contact Communities First on 01446 709432, email communitiesfirst@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

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Er mwyn cael mwy o wybodaeth neu os oes gennych ddiddordeb mewn cynnig cysylltwch â Mrs Angie Norman, Clerc Dros Dro y Dref ar 01446 704920 neu e-bostiwch:
angienorman@barrytowncouncil.gov.uk

BARRY TOWN COUNCIL
Minor Authority Representative Vacancies

Barry Town Council would like to invite interested parties to apply to represent the Council as Minor Authority Representatives on the following Schools:-

All Saints Church in Wales Primary School
Jenner Park Primary School
Ysgol St Baruc

The role of Minor Authority Representatives is a voluntary, four year position and the successful candidate would be expected to attend regular meetings and report back to the Council on those meetings.

For further information or if you are interested in applying please contact Mrs Angie Norman, Acting Town Clerk on 01446 704920 or email: **angienorman@barrytowncouncil.gov.uk**

PENARTH PRIEST SAYS...

'Ahoy there shipmates!'

LEFT: Rev Mark Jones (second left) on board the Matthew with representatives from local churches and the Coleridge Festival.

A PENARTH priest helped a marine-themed festival set sail on its journey around Wales by leading an inaugural ecumenical service on board a replica medieval ship.

Rev Mark Jones led the service for 'The Return of the Ancient Mariner' on board the *Matthew*, a 15th century replica caravel that docked in Penarth Marina on Sunday.

The service launched a whole season of Coleridge in Wales Festival activities that sees a band of artists, performers and storytellers travel the length and breadth of Wales, following in the footsteps of the world-renowned poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge.

"It was quite an interesting sight and certainly unusual to lead a service on board a ship," said the Rev Jones.

"The original ship in *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* set off from an unnamed Bristol Channel port, and the description of the area is consistent with Penarth and Cardiff Bay. St Augustine's Church, on the headland overlooking the bay, which is 150 this year, may have been the church referred to in the poem overlooking the setting off point, " he added.

"It all went off extremely well – the weather was fantastic. The ship was 'dressed' for the occasion by local students and the Salvation Army Band played."

Barry Tenovus Committee reports on successful year

THE year 2015/16 has proved to be a very successful one for the Barry Friends of Tenovus fundraising committee, having raised over £6,000 for the charity.

The committee has raised money in various ways – with quizzes, coffee mornings, and a fashion show hosted by the Edinburgh Woollen Mill at Brynhill Golf Club, to name a few. Tenovus in Barry was also chosen as the charity at the Monmouthshire Law Society Midsummer Ball last June at the Celtic Manor, where £3,000 was raised.A spokewoman said: "This year also saw the launch of our very popular recipe book 'Cook with Us', which has been selling like hot cakes! The recipe book features recipes from committee members, their family, friends and work colleagues, as well as a couple of well-known names.

"The committee are delighted to announce two more fundraising events in June and July. The annual Summer Lunch is on Wednesday, June 8, and will be held at Mr Villa's Fish and Chip Restaurant and Oyster Bar, The Knap, Barry. Tickets are available at £15 per person for a two course lunch.

"Wednesday, July 6 will see the annual Strawberry and Sparkle event, where guests will be treated to strawberries and cream, and a glass of 'sparkle' and will hopefully enjoy an afternoon of sunshine.

To purchase a ticket and for further details on both events, or to purchase a copy of 'Cook with Us', please contact Mary Thomas on 01446 733978.

Tenovus Cancer Care aims to help prevent, treat and find a cure for cancer. For further information, please visit their website: www.tenovuscancercare.org.uk.

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Egg-stravaganza boost for Velindre

LAST week, children from Evenlode Primary School in Penarth, handed over a huge cheque for £1,375 at their morning assembly, to volunteer fundraisers from the Velindre chick knit appeal.

The children listened eagerly as they had to guess how high the appeal money would stand if stacked high in one pound coins – some two miles they were told.

...Not quite as high as astronaut Tim Peake is flying!

Logan and Mia with the presentation cheque.

The children in Evenlode Primary school have been involved in the charity fundraising Chick Knit for Velindre Hospital over the past six years.

It all started with a knitting club that was run by the knitting nannies and a couple of teaching assistants in school. Club members all got to make a chick for the fundraising and got to buy them back again! The humble beginnings raised about £30, and started something off as an Evenlode tradition.

Mrs Ruth Elson, one of the dinner ladies and club founders, set about knitting chicks for the following year and the children loved the idea and the chicks were soon sold out!

This year, teaching assistants, Mrs Alison Wakley and Mrs Jayne Morris, thought that they might try to set a new record for the chick sale and set about organising a three week long event of chick sales.

The number of chicks soon rose to nearly 1,000 (thanks, Mrs Elson and her mum!) and the huge task of decorating the chicks began with help from several other members of staff and children.

It all got a bit 'egg-citing' when Mrs Morris decided to digress into custom-made animals for the children and staff – soon there was a whole menagerie including hedgehogs, parrots, fish, bees, cats, dogs, owls, dinosaurs, minions and some even turned into little monsters (the chicks, not the children!)

The children eagerly packed them and sold them at break times and after school until they were all gone!

We raised the price of the chicks a little this year for the first time, to £1.50, because they were one-off creations! To their credit the school raised £1,375 for the charity, which raises the school's total collected to nearly £4,000

Thank you to all those who knitted, decorated, packed, sold, and bought the creations, as without you the chick knit would not continue

The Evenlode Choir has also been invited to sing for Velindre Hospital.

JAYNE MORRIS

UNANIMOUS SUPPORT FOR POST OFFICE

AT a well-attended public meeting at Barry Memorial Hall, there was unanimous support for the campaign to save Barry Crown Post Office from closure.

Chaired by Jane Hutt AM, the meeting heard from members of the public as well as representatives of organisations and businesses. Chris Roche of the Communications Workers Union also addressed the meeting.

Jane Hutt said: "I urge everyone to respond to the consultation before June 8 – please contact my office for copies of my statement and the consultation questions (01446 740981 or jane.hutt@assembly.wales)."

Reading group is making Hay!

Welcome to the Hay Festival Book Club!

THE English department at the Barry Comprehensive school is inviting a selection of the school's most able and talented key stage three pupils to attend a new after-school book club!

The invitees will have the opportunity to review some of the exciting page-turners being discussed as part of this year's Hay Festival Schools Programme. The Hay Festival has been going strong for 27 years; it brings together writers, poets, lyricists, scientists and environmentalists from all over the world to share stories, debate interesting ideas and celebrate literature.

The pupils involved will be given the opportunity to attend the festival on Friday, May 27 and listen to some of the authors discuss their books!

The authors and their texts (which the club will be reading) include: Matt Dickinson's *North Face* (an exhilarating novel about an epic rescue mission after a deadly earthquake hits the Himalayas, leaving a climber trapped high on Everest); Juno Dawson's *Mind Your Head* (a frank, factual and funny book about taking care of your mental health, covering topics from anxiety and depression to addiction and self-harm); Patrick Ness' *The Rest of Us Just Live Here* (a witty and touching novel about trying to cope with growing up alongside a dysfunctional family, and Frances Hardinge's *The Lie Tree* (an intriguing Gothic murder mystery delving into the moral battles between truth and lies).

The English department are delighted to be able to host this book club and trip, and can't wait for their pupils to feedback on these thrilling texts! **AC**

GAY GETS A TOP AWARD

GAY FIFIELD, who co-ordinates the Barry Friends and Neighbours Group as part of Age Connect activities, has been named Adult Volunteer of the Year by Barry Town Mayor.

Vale AM Jane Hutt said: "Gay well and truly deserves the award. She works tirelessly throughout the year to support lonely and vulnerable people and senior citizens at the Age Connect Shop, organising outings, meetings, Christmas and Easter events."

Gay Fifield (on right) with Jane Hutt.

£3.5 million housing development on Woodlands Road

A computer generated image of the completed housing development at Woodlands Road, Barry.

WORK has started on a £3.5million housing development in Barry that will offer 30 new homes to local people.

The brand new apartments are being built on the site of the former adult training centre on Woodlands Road, by contractors Pegasus Development and Greenwich Communities, for Newydd Housing Association in partnership with Vale of Glamorgan Council and the Welsh Government.

A total of 24 one-bedroom and six two-bedroom apartments will be completed by summer 2017. Of these apartments three will be adapted properties for people with mobility issues.

Paul Roberts, chief executive of Newydd, said: "There is a real need for one and two bedroom properties in Barry. We urge local people to sign up to Homes4U, the local housing register, to ensure they get every opportunity to apply for a home when these properties are finished next year."

The properties will be publicised in The GEM in 2017. Local people with an interest in renting these brand new homes can apply by registering with Homes4U, the local housing register managed by the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

Kate is shortlisted for a leadership award

KATE BATCHELOR, operations director at Home Instead Senior Care, a company which provides home care to older people in Cardiff, Penarth, Barry and surrounding areas, has been named a finalist in the Leading Wales Awards.

The leadership awards which are in association with Cardiff Metropolitan University are now in their 12th year.

Kate has been shortlisted in the 'leadership in the private sector' category for her leadership role at Home Instead.

Commenting on the awards, Kate said: "I am so delighted to be recognised for the work we do at Home instead, it's wonderful to be a finalist and I am very proud to be in such esteemed company."

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Artistic talent on show

AN exhibition of local artists' poetry, painting and crafts was held on May 17 at Castleland Community Centre.

Exhibits came from individual artists, as well as members of SCOPE and Recovery Cymru (Metamorphosis Project). Much admired by visitors was a running horse painted by Sheila Jones of Gibbonsdown, as was a field of poppies by Tanya Phillips of Dunlin Court.

Recovery Cymru artwork included paintings together with poems to demonstrate how people have given up their addictions, and children from the drop in centre's Friday Club displayed a mural of hands.

Coun Liz Burnett said: "This is just what we are looking for in our Sense of Barry initiative which is looking at heritage and the arts."

Pupils put on Puss In Boots

THERE was singing and laughter at Colcot Primary School as year-6 drama club performed their version of *Puss in Boots*,to a hall of proud parents and junior children.

The club, organised by Mrs Di-Ronato and Mr Preen has been running since January, with children rehearsing every week after school and also giving up part of their weekend.

All of the hard work certainly paid off as the audience was treated to excellent impressions, fabulous singing and comical one-liners.

The 11 children who took part in the performance took on multiple roles and switched between these effortlessly.

This is the first time a small group of children has undertaken such a large production and its success means that hopefully there will be more to come in the future.

For video clips you can visit www.colcotprimaryschool.com

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RAMBLERS ENJOY RURAL SIGHTS AROUND HENSOL

FOR the 13 walkers who joined Geraint from Penarth and District Ramblers on a quiet sunny Sunday morning, a fantastic display of springtime flowers awaited their journey around parts of Welsh St Donats, Hensol and Pendoylan.

From the pretty Church of St Donat, fields festooned with bluebells, buttercups and daisies led towards Prisk, then under tall pylons through delicate wood anemone and past Welsh Black cattle to a field overlooking Talygarn House, created by Charles Clark, whose interests spanned railway engineering, medicine, the iron and coal industries, travelling and in his later life being a noted historian.

Tramping along a lane past tall red campion, bluebells, wild strawberry flowers, violets, wild garlic and the very pretty green alkanet which is bright blue in colour, their route continued on through the Vale Resort, with fluffy goslings and a heron on Llwyn-yoy Pond, followed an exciting moment in meeting the renowned Welsh rugby player turned coach, Neil Jenkins.

Climbing up through long grass from Tre-Dodridge and pausing for lunch near Ty Fry Lodge, forestry pathways led on through Hensol Forest for their return by road for the short journey back to their start past the delightful Great House, built as a gentleman's residence.

By contrast, William and his three companions headed out on a mid-week tramp to Bredon Hill in Worcestershire and, apart from one hefty shower, remained dry all day.

Following pathways from the Eckington Bridge beside the River Avon and along Shakespeare's Way to Nafford Weir and Lock, after re-crossing the river, morning coffee followed on a bench in the churchyard of St Michael's Church in the delightful village of Great Comberton.

A steep climb during which it rained led the group up onto Bredon Hill with its glorious views across the Vale of Evesham.

Then, a steep descent at the eastern end of the hill into the lovely village of Ashton-under-Hill led to a well-earned stop for lunch. Continuing through the hamlet of Grafton, with its gorgeous Cotswold stone cottages and then on through the Overbury Estate, to once again climb onto Bredon Hill, this time gazing southwards to the Vale of Gloucester, the journey led to Banbury Stone Tower, built as a summerhouse and used by a hermit in its ruined state until it was refurbished during World War Two.

A stop to purchase free range eggs at Upper End Farm, led them back to Eckington prior to the long journey home.

Today, May 26, meet at 7pm at Port Road Travel Lodge (old Cwm Cidi) for a four-mile moderate walk at Porthkerry; contact Jan/John on 01446 418514.

On May 28, meet at 9am at Cogan Leisure Centre for a nine-mile moderate walk, with a steep climb at the start taking in Llanfoist and Blorenge; contact Clive on 029 2065 4156.

On May 29, meet at 8am at Cogan for a trip up to Llanthony Priory for a 20-mile strenuous walk taking in some o the best known Black Mountain peaks, Bal Mawr and Bach, Rhos Dirion, Twmpa, Hay Bluff, the Cat's Back and Hatterrall Ridge; contact William on 07528 701 952.

On June 2, meet at 7pm at Penarth Clifftop car park for a five-mile easy walk taking in Lavernock and Cosmeston; contact Sue J on 029 2070 2901. **JS**

New vision for Vale is outlined

THE Vale Council has set out how it will achieve its vision for the next four years.

The authority's new corporate plan is designed to foster 'strong communities with a bright future' and details the key pieces of work the council will undertake between now and 2020 in order to make this vision a reality for residents.

Agreed following a public consultation, the plan reflects the council's core values: ambitious, open, together, and proud. It has been developed alongside the council's medium term financial plan and takes into account not just future funding considerations, but also the needs of the local population and demand for its services.

Coun Neil Moore, Leader of the Council, said: "People are working hard to support their families, caring for the young and the old within our communities and they expect and deserve good services which meet their needs.

"This plan sets out not only how we will deliver for them, but also our vision for the Vale as a place we are all proud of, one where people choose to live, do business and enjoy visiting, where there are opportunities for all ages, and where everyone feels valued and has a bright future.

"Despite delivering savings approaching £35 million since 2010, we have continued to provide priority services that meet local needs. The Vale Council was ranked as the top performing council in Wales last year according to figures published by Data Unit Wales. This is why we are confident that we can deliver the programme of actions contained in this plan and make a positive difference to the lives of local people.

"Although change is needed, we will sustain priority services and continue to work with partners, listen to what our citizens tell us about the services they value, and use this to help shape the way in which we work. I believe that this plan gives a clear message that as a council, we will continue to serve our local communities and to improve local well-being, now and into the future."

The plan breaks down the council's overarching vision into eight wellbeing objectives: reducing poverty and social exclusion; providing decent homes and safe communities; promoting regeneration, economic growth and employment; promoting sustainable development and protecting our environment; raising overall standards of achievement; valuing culture and diversity; encouraging and promoting active and healthy lifestyles, and safeguarding those who are vulnerable and promoting independent living.

It also sets out how, by working towards these objectives, the Vale Council will contribute to the seven national wellbeing goals put in place by Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act.

Now that these objectives have been agreed, their delivery will be closely monitored and reported annually.

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Spring fair

THE Children's Society, Penarth committee are holding their annual spring fair in The Paget Rooms, Penarth on Satuday, May 28 from 10am – 12noon.

There will be the usual varied stalls, cakes, preserves, plants, books, cards, raffle and a spring stall.
Admission £1 including coffee, tea, biscuits.
Free entry for children.

St Illtyd's Fair

ST ILLTYD'S Primary School will hold their summer fair on Friday, June 10 from 3.15pm. Funfair, barbecue, games, refreshments, stalls, everyone welcome.

Beach hut rental success

FOLLOWING the Vale Council's announcement that Barry Island's beach huts were going to be available for year-long rentals, a surge of interest has seen them snapped up in quick time.

The six large huts and six small huts were fully booked during the first day of being made available, as people rushed to hire the huts.

There are still opportunities for people to book beach huts on a daily basis. This can be done contacting the council's C1V contact centre on 700111, or online by visiting www.visitthevale.com/barrybeachhuts.

A spokesman advised: "Beach huts can also be booked in person when on Barry Island, but to avoid disappointment it is recommended to book in advance, either online or by phone."

Daily use costs for a small hut will be £10 for peak times and £5 for off peak, while large huts will be £20 during peak periods and £10 during off peak.

MP walks tightrope over Amelia Farm

Alun Cairns and Mike Stowell.

VALE MP Alun Cairns faced a difficult balancing act on Saturday when he visited the new Treetop Challenge at the Amelia Trust Farm.

Despite the challenging woodland adventure course featuring gruelling tree climbs, fast roping, slacklines and abseiling, our Member of Parliament managed to stay steady and avoid an embarrassing climb-down.

The Treetop Challenge was launched in April as a new addition to the Amelia Trust Farm site and provides excellent opportunities to individuals, children's parties or corporate groups seeking an energetic, adrenaline-filled day out.

The trail was set up by Mike Stowell, an expert in course design with 20 years' climbing experience. He shouted encouragement to Mr Cairns as he tackled the challenge.

Alun Cairns said: "The Amelia Trust Farm does great work in the community and this new addition to their site will further enhance the appeal to visitors. The course was fantastic fun, and with zip lines, swings and tightropes it's suitable for everyone from the novice to the full adrenaline junkie.

"Mike Stowell has done a fantastic job setting this up and I wish him every success as the Treetop Challenge expands."

The course is situated in deciduous woodland adjacent to the main Amelia Trust Farm site, off the Five Mile Lane near Barry. It costs £18 per person for the full course, £10 for a half course and individual activities start at £3 each.

The farm includes a cafeteria, WCs and opportunities to interact with farm animals.

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Wednesday 1 June	Thursday 2 June
Thursday 2 June	Friday 3 June
Friday 3 June	Saturday 4 June

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The Waste and Recycling e-calendars on the council website have been amended to reflect these new collection dates

www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/recycle

Vale MP intervenes over Dinas Powys bank closure

Margaret Hayley with Alun Cairns.

THE Vale MP, Alun Cairns, says he is writing to Ross McEwan, chief executive of NatWest Bank, to challenge the decision to close the last remaining bank in Dinas Powys – the NatWest branch on Elm Grove Road.

Mr Cairns' intervention follows his meeting in Dinas Powys last Friday with local NatWest executives responsible for the decision to close the branch.

The meeting, in which the banks' use of various statistics and commitment to the community were questioned, ended with Mr Cairns deciding to take the case to save branch to the highest level in the company.

The Vale MP said: "I am writing to the chief executive of NatWest to challenge the decision to close Dinas Powys' last bank branch. I met regional executives from the bank on Friday to ask them to justify the closure and was unimpressed with the case they made.

"I was given assurances only three months ago, as the mobile branch started visiting the village, that there were no plans to close the branch. I deeply frustrated that this does not appear to have been the case.

"Dinas is the biggest village in Wales – with a population bigger than many chartered towns. I think this branch may well be viable in to the future, and I have significant reservations over the current business case for its closure."

He said: "The statistics that are being used to explain the decision could be misleading – particularly the assertion that the branch has only 18 weekly customers.

"In the meeting, I was able to establish that whereas only 18 people on average visited the bank every week over a six-week period – the average number of customer visits per week was substantially higher.

"In fact, 12,252 transactions took place in the branch in 2015. This is presented as a huge reduction from the 27,874 transactions that took place in 2011, but when you consider that the branch was open five days a week in 2011 and only two days a week in 2015, the banks' usage has remained remarkably consistent.

"Indeed, the number of transactions per-day open increased over the period."

Chair of Dinas Powys Community Council Margaret Haley, who attended Friday's meeting with Alun Cairns and the NatWest executives, accused the bank of "letting the village down" and expressed disappointment that local management had not fought harder to prevent this decision from being made.

Stroke ambassador spreads message

VALE AM Jane Hutt recently met Barry and Vale of Glamorgan Stroke Awareness Ambassador, Haydn Canter, who suffered a stroke in July 2014, to highlight Stroke Awareness month.

"Someone in the UK has a stroke every three and a half minutes – that's approximately 152,000 every year," she said.

COWBRIDGE ART SOCIETY

ON Thursday, May 26 Cowbridge Art Society has its AGM (members only).

On May 26 Cardiff artist Richard O'Connell (a member of VOGA – Vale of Glamorgan Artists) will lead a life drawing session.

CAS welcomes artists of any ability and also non-artists, to see demonstrations of various art techniques or illustrated lectures on art topics.

The society meets on Thursday evenings at the Old Hall, Cowbridge from 7pm – 9pm and welcomes occasional visitors for a small fee; new members are most welcome. For details of the society's activities see www.cowbridgeartsociety.com.

What did the death of Jesus mean for us?

EVER since Jesus died on the cross, people have been arguing about what exactly it all means.

A fresh take on this subject will be given next month by Dr Jane Williams, who – although she might be better known as the wife of the former Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams – is a highly-respected theologian, author and lecturer in her own right..

Dr Williams, assistant dean and tutor in theology at St Mellitus College, a theological college of the Church of England, has just completed a sabbatical study on the Atonement.

She will share her findings in a lecture for CACEC, the Cardiff Adult Christian Education Centre, which serves Cardiff, the Vale and the Valleys, on Friday, June 10.

She takes as her title *'Why can't God just forgive us, without the death of Christ?'*

Her talk will explore the Atonement, and examine some of the theological and moral questions that arise when the horrible death of Christ on the cross is seen as 'necessary' for our forgiveness and reconciliation.

Dr Williams played a significant role in furthering the cause of women in the Anglican Church.

She is regularly invited to teach and speak all over the world and is involved in promoting theological education in the wider Anglican Communion.

Her books include *Lectionary Reflections, Approaching Christmas, Approaching Easter, Angels* and *Faces of Christ*.

Her CACEC lecture is the group's annual William Hodgkins lecture in honour of its founder and admission is free.

It will be held on June 10 at 7.30pm in City United Reformed Church, Windsor Place, Cardiff. **JSE**

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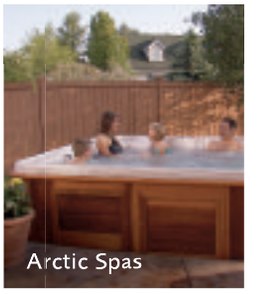

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CARDIFF AIRPORT UNVEILS ITS NEW-LOOK DEPARTURE LOUNGE

Debra Barber, MD and COO of Cardiff Airport and Vale-based weather girl, Ruth Wignall, cut the ribbon, watched by Andy Webb, business development director, SSP The Food Travel Experts.

CARDIFF Airport marked the start of the summer season with the official unveiling of its latest improvements to the customer experience.

Following a busy 11 months of passenger growth, works have been continuing to enhance the terminal's facilities.

The latest project to be completed is a brand new bar and restaurant – The Beer House – plus a completely transformed coffee shop, Ritazza; both located in the departures area after security.

Developed in partnership with SSP, a leading operator of food and beverage brands in travel locations worldwide, The Beer House has been designed to reflect the best of Welsh products and includes locally produced beers by Tiny Rebel and Brains, as well as new food items using Welsh ingredients.

Ritazza offers great coffee, and perhaps a light bite to eat. The brand is inspired by cosmopolitan and multicultural European café culture.

Cardiff Airport is expecting a busy summer. Airlines will be busy serving a wide choice of sunny destinations, including Spain and the Canaries, Bulgaria, Malta, Portugal, Greece, Cyprus, Italy and Turkey.

Debra Barber, managing director and chief operating officer at Cardiff Airport, said: "This latest development really reinforces what an exciting time it is for Cardiff Airport.

"As passenger growth continues, we are continuing to work hard and improve the experience for our customers.

"The Beer House and Ritazza are different in their offering but complement each other very well, giving passengers choice and quality.

"The departures area has been transformed and we're looking forward to a busy summer at Wales' national airport!"

Crossbreeds given chance to qualify for Crufts

SCRUFFTS, the competition that gives crossbreed dogs the opportunity to compete in the main arena at Crufts, is looking for local top dogs as it comes to the South Wales dog and family fun day at Fonmon Castle, in the Vale of Glamorgan, on May 30.

Dogs and owners competing at the heats are hoping to make it through to the class semi-finals, held at Eukanuba Discover Dogs at ExCeL London in October, and from there six lucky crossbreed dogs will qualify for Crufts 2017.

All crossbreeds and mixed breed dogs in the area are invited to take part in the Scruffts Family Crossbreed Dog of the Year competition, sponsored by James Wellbeloved, where all shapes, sizes and ages of dog are welcome.

Each dog entered in the competition will have a few minutes to dazzle the judges in one or more of the six competition categories: Most Handsome Crossbreed Dog, Prettiest Crossbreed Bitch, Child's Best Friend, Golden Oldie Crossbreed, Best Crossbreed Rescue and the Good Citizen Dog Scheme class.

For entry criteria for each class, visit www.scruffts.org.uk.

When choosing the winner and runners-up for each class, the judge ensures that the dog has the following qualities: good character; good health; good personality; good temperament with people and other dogs, and well behaved.

Caroline Kisko, secretary of the Kennel Club, which organises the competition, said: "Scruffts is a fantastic competition, celebrating the love, companionship and often heroic stories of our nation's crossbreed dogs.

"These heats also raise money for the Kennel Club Charitable Trust, which makes a difference for dogs by funding a wide variety of work, ranging from supporting research into canine diseases, to welfare initiatives."

Volunteers needed for 'meet and greet' service

CARDIFF and Vale University Health Board is currently looking for volunteers to support the 'Meet and Greet' service at University Hospital Llandough.

As part of National Volunteers Week, an open day will be held at the Information Centre at University Hospital Llandough on Thursday, June 2 between 11am and 2pm.

A spokeswoman explained: "Cardiff and Vale UHB welcomes volunteering applications from all walks of life, including people who have the experience of a mental health condition.

"Our meet and greet volunteers provide a welcoming service to all patients, visitors, carers and Health Board staff across various hospital sites."

To volunteer, contact Michelle Fowler, Voluntary Services Manager, on 029 21847867 or email Michelle.Fowler2@wales.nhs.uk.

£593.7m cost for 'free prescriptions'

THE cost of the universal free prescriptions policy continues to rise, with almost £600 million spent on prescriptions in 2015, according to figures published last week.

Total spend on the prescriptions reached a record-breaking £593.7m last year, compared to just £410.4m in the year that universal free prescriptions were first introduced in 2000.

The new data has led to calls from the Welsh Conservatives for "an urgent review" of the free prescriptions policy, with Wales now prescribing the more items per head in any part of the UK.

Wales dispensed the highest number of prescription items per head across the UK in 2015: 25.7 compared to 21.6 in Northern Ireland, 20.0 in England and 19.0 in Scotland.

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CHOIR ON SONG FOR GALA CONCERT

The new enlarged Barry Male Voice Choir.

A RECENT visit by Barry Male Voice Choir to Dunkeld, Scotland, has been hailed a success.

Two concerts for local charities were held in the magnificent medieval cathedrals of Dunkeld and Dunblane, well attended by appreciative audiences.

The distinct flavour of Wales served by the choir was enjoyed by all, and the choir's feet are now firmly back on local ground and attention is now being focused on the choir's annual concert to be held in June.

Choir secretary and soloist Richard King explained: "This year's concert will feature the biggest choir staged for some years and includes more than 20 new recruits, who are looking forward to this gala occasion.

The concert will also feature Ben Tarlton, a talented cello soloist and former pupil of the Yehudi Menuhin Music School. Ben is a student at the Guildhall School of Music in London and has already performed at prestigious events at venues, including the Tonhalle in Zurich and the Wigmore Hall in London."

Barry Male Voice Choir's annual concert will be held at St Helen's Roman Catholic Church, Wyndham Street, Barry, at 7pm on Friday, June 3. Tickets (£8) are available from choristers, at the door or by phoning 01446 402398.

There is no entry charge for children.

Public meeting held on Barry Post Office closure

AT a well-attended public meeting at Barry Memorial Hall on May 17, there was unanimous support for the campaign to save Barry Crown Post Office from closure.

Chaired by Jane Hutt AM for the Vale, the meeting heard from members of the public as well as representatives of organisations and businesses. Chris Roche of the Communications Workers Union also addressed the meeting.

Attendees heard about the devastating impact closure of the Barry Crown Post Office would have on older and disabled people and local businesses.

The excellent services provided by the skilled and experienced post office staff were praised as well as the accessible facilities in the centrally located office, situated near pensioners' flats, the Vale Council, Job Centre and Barry Town Council.

With the formal consultation closing on June 8, the meeting agreed to respond to the consultation and attended a forum organised at short notice by the Post Office on Monday, May 23 at the Masonic Hall

Ms Hutt said: "I urge everyone to respond to the consultation before June 23. Please contact my office for copies of my statement and the consultation questions by calling 01446 740981 or emailing jane.hutt@assembly.wales.

"Barry is the largest expanding town in Wales and we cannot, and must not, let our Crown Post Office close," she added.

Walk raised £10,850 for charities

THE Touched by Cancer sixth annual sponsored walk which took place last October, raised a massive £10,850 for local cancer support charities.

The money was distributed by Coun Megan Butcher, chair and founder of Touched by Cancer, at the Sandville Self Help Centre, Kenfig last week, when £3,500 was handed to Sandville Self Help Centre, and the same amount to LATCH (Porthcawl) and Macmillan (Bridgend).

A small donation of £250 was also given to the Teenage Cancer Trust (south Wales) for their work with young people.

Coun Butcher said: "We have been overwhelmed by the tremendous support we have been given over the last six years, from local people, businesses and other organisations."

She also thanked family, friends and David Brace (Dunraven Windows) Gareth Maund (Prince of Wales pub, Kenfig) and David Carrington (Kenfig Nature Reserve) for their unstinting support.

Since it started in 2010, Touched by Cancer has raised over £66,000 towards helping cancer sufferers and their families across the local area.

The 2016 Sponsored Walk takes place on Saturday, October 29 and sponsor forms are available from tbc@caddt.org or by calling 01656 670812.

Dinas Powys Community Council: a year in review

ABOVE: Margaret Hayley with Keith Hatton, retiring chair.

RETIRING chair of Dinas Powys Community Council, Coun Keith Hatton, said that working with and providing services for the community were the hallmarks of the past year.

Coun Hatton said: "We have worked hard to engage with all aspects of the community such as Dr Sue Thomas of the medical centre, Foodbank, the WI defibrillator appeal and the Scouts.

"We have made representations to and met with many outside organisations including the Vale Council, the Cardiff and Vale University Health Board and Creative Rural Communities."

Among other achievements, Coun Hatton was pleased to have helped arrange floodlighting for the Dinas Powys war memorial. He said: "It is a lasting tribute to those from within our community who made the ultimate sacrifice to protect our democracy and the freedom we enjoy today. Thanks to the research of Derek Brushett, two names missing from the roll of men were added to the memorial."

One of the most moving events was the special tribute on July 9, at the war memorial, to the holidaymakers who were murdered in Tunisia in 2015.

Coun Margaret Hayley was installed as the 122nd chair.

Margaret, born in Dinas Powys, has enjoyed a varied sporting career, representing Wales at tennis and lacrosse and continuing to play veteran tennis at international level.

BONSAI DISPLAY

DYFFRYN Gardens will host the Cardiff Bonsai Club's display of bonsai trees this bank holiday weekend, May 28 – 30.

The public can learn about growing and caring for these miniature trees, with demonstrations, workshops and advice from club experts.

The display is from 10am – 5pm Saturday and Sunday, and from 10am – 4pm on Monday. The gardens are open from 10am – 6pm; last entry at 5pm and normal admission prices apply.

MOYA'S THANKS

I WOULD like to say 'thank you' to all the pupils from the Moya Vahey School of Russian Classical Ballet based in Cowbridge, but with pupils from across the Vale, from Porthcawl to Penarth, Llantwit Major to Bridgend, and to the Ella Morgan school of Dance, based in Pontyclun and Rhondda Cynon Taff.

The schools joined together for a performance of Sleeping Beauty, with music played by the Rhondda Symphonietta Players, conducted by Nic Treharne.

Rachel Bent was an excellent Aurora and Llewelyn Brown a charming Prince; Alice Teague, a dainty Lilac Fairy but strong enough to stop Isaac St John Griffiths spoiling the story with the wicked Carabosse.

The three-year-olds stole the show in their pink tutus!

Very grateful thanks to all the helpers back stage and front of house, and to the staff at The Sony Theatre, Bridgend College; £5,000 was raised for Cancer Research Wales at Velindre Hospital. Moya Vahey Beynon, Cowbridge.

Relaxing in the garden!

THE Vale NFU Ladies' May trip was a success, with 47 ladies heading off to Pam Lewis' garden at Devizes.

Welcomed by coffee, tea and homemade biscuits, the ladies soon got in the swing of a fun day; Pam showed us around her large garden, before a delicious lunch.

Ten floral arrangements were made, raffled by Pam, and more walks around the garden made the whole day relaxing and successful.

Chairperson Kay thanked Pam and reminded the club that a summer break will now take place before regular monthly meetings commence in September. New members always welco **JS**

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Sully U3A group learn about Vale's churches

MEMBERS at Sully U3A's May meeting were entertained by a talk on churches in the Vale by John Winton.

He began his working life as a teacher, reaching the position of deputy headmaster of a secondary school in the Midlands.

He then left teaching and helped set up the Church Tourism Network in the late 1990s to assist churches to attract visitors and promote them, becoming the organisation's director.

Recently, he organised the setting up of Sanctaidd, a charity set up to support places of worship in Wales, not only in terms of tourism, but also in terms of funds to support repairs and improvements to places of worship.

John said religious buildings are a huge draw for international visitors to Britain.

Visiting churches and cathedrals constantly rates highly as one of the top priorities for international tourists and there are a huge number of churches in south Wales.

He concentrated his talk on churches in the Vale and showed slides of some including Ewenny Priory, the most complete Norman church in south Wales, St Cadoc's, Llancarfan, with its re-discovered mediaeval wall-paintings, St Illtud's, Llantwit Major, one of the oldest Christian sites in the UK

He was thanked by chairman, Jean Bispham for his interesting talk and answered questions.

The next monthly meeting will be on June 9 when the AGM will take place, followed by a tea party with 1920s theme to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday. **SC**

Why Caitlin and Tomas (aged 10) are raising funds for Velindre

TWO 10-year-old Scouts from 11th Barry Sea Scout Group have taken on the task of raising £500 in aid of Velindre Cancer Centre.

Caitlin Thompson and Tomas Murray have only recently been invested in to the Scout section after spending the last two years as Cubs. They held a coffee morning on Saturday, May 21 at the *Whitecrest II*, which is the 11th Barry's HQ in Illminster Street.

When asked what prompted them decide to support Velindre, Tomas said: "My Nan has cancer and my Granddad has had it twice. When my mum and dad told me about my Nan, I wanted to do something to help."

Caitlin has a similar reason for wanting to help: "My Granddad had cancer a couple of years ago and when Tom told me about his Nan and wanting to do something, I decided that I wanted to too."

After talking to their parents, it was suggested that they do something for Velindre and they decided on a coffee morning.

With the idea for a coffee morning decided upon, they set about getting donations of cakes and raffle prizes. Due to the generosity of far too many people to mention, Caitlin and Tomas were able to run the coffee morning without having to buy anything for it. From the coffee and tea to the prizes for the raffle, everything was donated to them.

Among over 100 people at the event were Secretary of State for Wales, Alun Cairns MP, and the newly elected deputy mayor of Barry, Coun Karl Kuhnell and Mrs Meryl Kuhnell.

Between the raffle, cakes and drinks the two young Scouts raised £404 with another £55 being donated via their Just Giving page.

Caitlin said: "It was amazing; people just kept coming up to us to buy cakes and to put notes into our collection bucket."

Tomas said: "We are so close to hitting £500 and our just giving page is still running. Please help us get there!"

To help Caitlin and Tomas to get to their target, go to www.justgiving.com and type in Tom & Caitlin's Coffee Morning. For more information about fundraising for Velindre, go to www.velindrefundraising.com.

Tom and Caitlin, with Coun Karl Kuhnell and Mrs Meryl Kuhnell.

Foodies are heading for a treat at Cowbridge over this bank holiday!

THE festival season is upon us and this week, while book lovers may be heading to the Hay Festival – food and drink lovers will be making a beeline for Cowbridge!

Having arrived at a successful formula, the organisers of the Cowbridge Festival of Food and Drink have made some minor tweaks, but all the favourite elements are present and correct – and with a favourable weather forecast, everything is looking good!

As usual, the festival will be over two days, Sunday, May 29 and Monday, May 30.

It's a popular event with stall-holders, and many will be turning up this year with more stock – as sales last year were very good, with several stalls running out of stock by early afternoon.

The popular feature of cooking demonstrations by local chefs is back once again, and there are a number of high-profile experts who will be sharing some of the secrets of their trade.

The men (and women) behind businesses such as Bar 44, the Hangfire Smokehouse, the Caban in Cardiff, and the Hare and Hounds in Aberthin will be on stage over the two days.

Extra events will be staged in the Old Hall Gardens, where the festival fringe has a busy programme.

And, of course, it's not all about buying produce to take home. What better place could you find for discovering a delicious bite to eat, or finding a wine, beer, cider or spirit to drink on the spot or take home?

Wales has a thriving food festival circuit, from north to south and from east to west, and Cowbridge is now a regular – and proud to be so!

For full details of everything that's taking place over a packed two days, go to ***cowbridgefoodanddrink.org***

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Holocaust survivor visits Barry school

ALMOST 200 students from Barry Comprehensive School heard the testimony of Holocaust survivor, Joanna Millan, during a recent visit organised by the Holocaust Educational Trust (HET).

The visit was part of the HET's Outreach Programme, which is available to schools across the UK, and allows students to better understand the nature of the Holocaust in more depth.

A spokesman for the school said: "It was a privilege for us to welcome Joanna Millan and her testimony will remain a powerful reminder of the horrors so many experienced.

"We are grateful to the HET for co-ordinating the visit and we hope that our students will learn from the lessons of the Holocaust and make a positive difference in their own lives."

Karen Pollock MBE, chief executive of the HET commented: "The HET educates and engages students from across the UK, from all communities about the Holocaust and there can be no better way than through the first-hand testimony of a survivor.

"At the Trust, we impart the history of the Holocaust to young people, to ensure that we honour the memory of those whose lives were lost and take forward the lessons taught by those who survived."

Students are now conducting a research project about the Holocaust to design and create a Holocaust memorial for their school.

AC

ABOVE: Holocaust survivor Joanna Millan shows a photo of herself before being deported to Theresienstadt concentration camp.

AGE CONNECTS

AGE Connects Cardiff and Vale is getting involved with Stroke Awareness Month by holding a health topic session at The Senior Health Shop in Holton Road, Barry.

Cardiff and Vale Stroke Association will be on hand to give advice and help, with a range of 'life after stroke' services.

A spokesman said: "You may need help with daily living activities and there are products and services which can help you make your life more independent.

"There are also support groups in the local area and help for carers who have been affected by someone in the family suffering from a stroke. Contact 01446 732385 for further information or just come along.

LEARNING TO MANAGE ALLERGIC REACTIONS

THE spring and summer months – are a wonderful time of year with longer days, rising temperatures, long walks and glorious holidays. But for the 15 million people in the UK who suffer with hay fever, the change of season can bring with it sneezing, runny noses and itchy eyes.

Hay fever is an allergic reaction to pollen – of which there are several types. The majority of hay fever sufferers are allergic to grass pollen and tend to start experiencing symptoms from May until July or August.

For those with allergies to tree pollen, their onset of symptoms will depend on which type they're allergic to and when the tree produces pollen.

For some people, symptoms can be mild and there's no need for medication. But for others, hay fever can cause discomfort, lack of concentration and irritability.

Pharmacists are always available to provide advice about hay fever treatment, often you don't need to see a doctor.

We can ask you your symptoms and how severe they are. If you only get hay fever symptoms now and again and the symptoms are confined to the nasal area, a nasal spray can be effective.

People have to be cautious, however, when using a decongestant nasal spray as regular use can actually have a rebound effect and make you have a blocked nose.

If a person has more symptoms, like sneezing accompanied with a runny nose, antihistamine tablets can be effective. These, however, may be less effective at relieving a blocked nose.

For those who suffer with itchy or sore eyes, eyedrops can help.

When you are buying hay fever medicines or picking up your prescription, your pharmacist may ask if you will be driving.

This is because some hay fever treatments can cause drowsiness. Newer antihistamines are non-drowsy and your pharmacist can guide you to these.

If over the counter treatments don't give you sufficient relief or your symptoms are particularly severe, your pharmacist will be able to tell you if you should see your GP.

by KATE THOMAS
Pharmacist at Sylvia Williams

There are also simple things you can do to help keep your hay fever at bay. Most weather reports include information about pollen counts – if they are high, try to stay indoors as much as possible. If you do want to venture out, wear sunglasses and keep your car windows closed when driving. It can also help to shower and change your clothes after you've been outside.

It is worth noting for hay fever sufferers that treatments can sometimes take a long time to work so make sure you speak to your pharmacist well ahead of this year's hay fever peak season.

Pollen is by no means the only cause of allergies, other allergies include pets, moulds, dustmites, foods and chemicals. Allergic reactions include wheezing, sneezing, asthma, eczema and hives.

If you feel you may be suffering from any of these allergies call in to see us and get advice on the most appropriate treatment.

Don't forget to take advantage of other free services your pharmacy can offer, we are here to help.

Discharge medication reviews: If you you have been discharge from hospital recently, take the stress out of organising your new prescription, send your pharmacy a copy of your medication discharge sheet and they can liaise with your doctor's surgery to ensure you get everything you need.

Medicine use review: Any problems taking any of your medicines, not sure what you are taking them for? We can advise you and help with any issues, to ensure you get the maximum benefit out of your medicines.

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WHAT'S ON & WHERE IN YOUR AREA?

Porthcawl Farmers market

THIS monthly market will be at Awel y Mor Community Hall in Porthcawl from 9am – 12.30pm on Saturday, May 28 with the usual regular producers in attendance.

This month we will also have Ele's Little Kitchen, with a range of Spanish tapas available.

Barry War museum

THE Barry War Museum at Barry Island Station will be open on May 28, 29 and 30 from 11am to 3.30pm. Recruiting now for Wartime Weekend in September!

TaxHelp for Older People

TOP's income tax surgery will take place on May 30 from 10am – 12 noon.

No appointment necessary; older people on a restricted income with income tax queries and/or problems are welcome at Roz Couzens' Chiropody surgery, Unit 4, Commercial House, Commercial Street, Llantwit Major CF61 1RB.

Home visits can also be arranged if necessary, on 0845 6013321 or 01308 488066.

Stroke Awareness addendum

THE next Stroke Awareness session to be held at Age Connects Senior Health Shop is on Tuesday, May 31 from 10am to 12 midday.

Half term activities at Barry Library

TUESDAY, May 31 10am – 12pm: Fairy and Pixie Craft drop-in session, children must be accompanied by an adult. For children 4+, £1 charge.

May 31 2pm: Coding – book a place through the eventbrite link on the libraries web page.

Wednesday, June 1 at 2 pm: Story Time – story and craft for 2 – 5-year-olds.

Thursday, June 2, 2pm – 4pm: Minecraft – book a place through www.milittlepad.com. The session will be £8 per child.

Old Girls' reunion

THE Cowbridge High School Old Girls' Association will hold their summer reunion on June 3 at the Cowbridge Athletic Club at 7pm.

For details, contact Caroline on 01656 784898 or Gail on 02920 891089.

Orchid Society talk

CARDIFF and Vale Orchid Society is hosting a talk on Cymbidium orchids by Ian Parsons, chairman of the British Orchid Society, on Saturday, June 4 at 2pm. The talk will take place at the Old Sully School, Sully.

Anyone with orchids, or an interest in orchids is welcome to come along on the day. For more information contact Tony Cumming on 01446 738472.

Junior fishing competition

OGMORE Angling Association hold their annual junior fishing competition on Sunday, June 5 at the Dipping Bridge, River Ogmore, from 10am-1pm.

A 'catch and release' policy and the use of measuring boards and barbless hooks is operated by the club, which will be supplied on the day.

Open to all OAA members under 18, non members may join the club on the day; prizes and refreshments.

Further enquiries to 01446 794261.

South Wales Shadows Club

MEETING on June 14 at The Conservative Club, Stanwell Road (029 2030 9979); to play, bring your guitar, (use our PA etc) or just to listen. Licensed bar from 8pm, all are welcome.

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D932.

- **£2,000:** 967723.
- **The rollover, which is now £7,000, was not won this week.**
- **£10:** 779285, 675166, 857818, 927905, 331274, 476680, 136674, 950541, 237616, 613529, 702933, 256059, 402828, 753955, 893943, 635205, 717771, 1174, 1806, 1755.
- **£5:** 604009, 773514, 295263, 959403, 878967, 434123, 284133, 223332, 862231, 346847, 788953, 537847, 658462, 936929, 478629, 965099, 238891, 694336, 892789, 630785, 558409, 624605, 278189, 454943, 257758, 231769, 615669, 744586, 835717, 449861, 787451, 418003, 900445, 117547, 928682, 127308, 264596, 803827, 228006, 454568, 159348, 648054, 376788, 279733, 555678, 500409, 875857, 255984, 214313, 666835, 316421, 686757, 708993, 193109, 837, 1808, 720, 1956841, 1838867, 5647.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

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YFC annual rally day

THE Glamorgan Federation of Young Farmers Club annual rally day is taking place on Saturday, June 11 at Slade Farm Organics in St Brides Major by permission of the Davies family.

This year's theme of 'through the decades'sees 250 members from across Glamorgan battle it out for silverware and the honour of representing the county at the next round of competitions at the Royal Welsh Show in July.

Local businesses and producers are also invited to exhibit at the Rally Day, to display their produce and products to visitors and competitors alike.

For further information about rally day, visit www.glamorganyfc.co.uk or get in touch with County Organiser, Gwyneth Thomas, on 07779 331839 or email Glamorgan@yfc-wales.org.uk.

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Apocalypse is severely lacking in X-factor…

by GARETH JAMIESON
Follow Screen Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreenTalk

ITS hard to believe, but the X-Men franchise is 16 years old, having debuted in 2000 with the simply-titled *X-Men*.

Since then the films have had highs (*X2, Days Of Future Past*) and lows (*The Last Stand*, the ill-conceived *X-Men Origins: Wolverine*), but with Bryan Singer behind the camera for his fourth X-outing, hopes are high for *X-Men: Apocalypse*.

Set in the 1980s, it follows Charles Xavier (James McAvoy), who has set up his school for mutants in a world where mutants are not forced to hide away.

However, Xavier and his pupils face a gigantic test when they are brought into conflict with Apocalypse (Oscar Isaac), the first mutant who has survived through millennia and is intent on wreaking havoc on the human race, assisted by, among others, Magneto (Michael Fassbender).

However, with the return to the fold of Mystique (Jennifer Lawrence), this new breed of X-Men must take the fight to Apocalypse – and try to prevent the end of the world as we know it...

About halfway through *X-Men: Apocalypse*, after a group of young X-ers have watched *Return of the Jedi*, there is debate about which film in the Star Wars trilogy is the best, with Sophie Turner's Jean Grey ending the debate by saying, "Everyone knows the third film is the worst".

If you consider this the third film in a new X-Men franchise, rebooted ever so softly in 2010's *First Class* (and there's no reason why you shouldn't, quite frankly) then Grey's critique of …*Jedi* is certainly applicable here.

Apocalypse is a dour and underwhelming experience that never seemingly gets into gear to offer something that thrills or excites.

While the previous films have used their time period as a backdrop to the story (*First Class* set against the Cuban Missile Crisis, *DOFP* against the Vietnam war and its fallout), *Apocalypse*'s 1980s setting doesn't lend itself to anything in particular, with only the occasional gag such as the aforementioned critique of *Return of the Jedi* and the odd cultural nod here and there.

It feels strangely empty as a film, the stakes being reduced to simply a megalomaniac who wants to take over the world and reorganise it in his image, and the X-Men having to stop him.

What weight you could include by having a figure who has lived through millennia and the connotations of what he is capable of is barely even touched upon, making the titular villain nothing particularly exciting or fresh.

His motivations are basic to say the least, and without a villain of real substance, the film flounders as the X-Men themselves suffer from poor writing and a lack of identity. Not all the characters fail to land – Kodi Smit-McPhee's Nightcrawler, Tye Sheridan's Scott Summers, Evan Peter's Quicksilver and, belatedly, Turner's Jean Grey stick out most in the memory – but far too many of them are reduced to a cool entrance and then a failure to do anything with them.

The likes of Alexandra Shipp's Storm, Olivia Munn's Psylocke and Ben Hardy's Angel are one-dimensional at best, Oscar Isaac can't quite break through the prosthetics as the titular villain, while the established characters such as McAvoy's Xavier, Fassbender's Magneto and Jennifer Lawrence's Mystique just lack the punch to really resonate.

It's strange because the latter two probably have the most intriguing arcs – Magneto has turned his back on the world and is living anonymously with a wife and child; Mystique is, after the events of the last film, considered to be a mutant icon looked up to by others – but are hamstrung by the script.

Mystique's arc is in the background but never really explored in depth while Magneto's new life of tranquillity is waiting to be shattered from the get-go and plays out with predictability.

Bryan Singer, marking his fourth outing in the director's chair for this particular franchise, doesn't do a bad job; in fact, there are a few scenes that are impressively staged, such as Apocalypse's initial resurrection, a Quicksilver sequence that makes The Eurythmics' 'Sweet Dreams Are Made of This' faintly bearable, and a scene that sees a familiar face unleash a significant amount of bloodshed on some unsuspecting military-types.

However, when the film reaches its crescendo, in a large-scale battle sequence taking place in the rubble-strewn streets of Cairo, you can't help but feel that it's the sort of sequence that comes all too frequently in films of this ilk, and doesn't truly stand out, while call-backs to previous films only serve to remind you of the difference in quality.

In fact, that's the main charge that you can levy at this film; that for a franchise that has always dug deeper into the psychology of the characters and their motivations, this feels like a film that is all surface, no feeling.

There's no X-factor on show, ironically, making *Apocalypse* something of a disappointment.

VERDICT – A disappointing and underwhelming experience, *X-Men: Apocalypse* suffers from having a by-the-numbers villain, predictable story arcs and characters whose surfaces are barely scratched. There are the odd moments that shine, while several characters resonate, but overall this is a distinctly lacklustre piece of work. Average.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *X-Men: Days of Futures Past* (2014), *The Dark Knight Rises* (2012).

NEWS IN BRIEF

Big Screen

BIG Screen's next film for this season is *Bridge of Spies* (Cert 12A) on Thursday, May 21 at 7.30pm in Cowbridge Town Hall.

Set in the days of the Cold War a reluctant lawyer (Tom Hanks) is sent to interrogate a suspected East German spy (Mark Rylance) in order to secure the release of U2 pilot Gary Powers.

Doors open 7.10pm, tickets £4 in advance from the Town Clerk's office, or on the door.

Stained glass

ON Saturday and Sunday, June 25 (10am – 5pm) and 26 (12pm – 5pm) St Paul's Church, Pontyclun, will hold a stained glass window festival, followed by Songs of Praise at 6pm, when the favourite windows will be announced.

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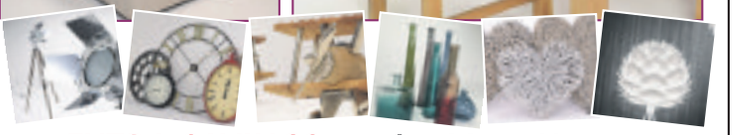

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Yn dilyn sefydlu'r ŵyl y llynedd, a gyda diolch i gefnogaeth parhaus gan Lywodraeth Cymru, Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru a Chyngor Bro Morgannwg, fe fydd yr ŵyl undydd yma'n rhan bwysig o raglen ddigwyddiadau haf y Cyngor eto eleni.

Yn perfformio yn Gŵyl Fach y Fro 2016 bydd Sŵnami, Sorela, Meic Stevens, Wonderbrass, Hanna Morgan (cantores lleol a chyn-ddisgybl Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg) a Lost in Chemistry (band ifanc o'r Barri, ac enillwyr Brwydr y Bandiau C2/Maes B 2015).

Bydd cannoedd o blant o ysgolion Cymraeg y Sir hefyd yn camu i'r llwyfan i berfformio yn ystod y diwrnod.

Mae nifer o elfennau newydd wedi eu hychwanegu at yr ŵyl eleni, ac un o'r datblygiadau cyffrous ar gyfer 2016 bydd stondinau cynnyrch a chrefftau Cymreig gan ddarparwyr lleol, bydd wedi eu lleoli yn yr hytiau traeth trawiadol ar y promenâd.

Bydd hefyd adloniant stryd a gweithdai gyda'r perfformwyr syrcas NoFit State; gweithdai ac arddangosfeydd Cardiff Arts Collective; Sioe, Amser Stori a Helfa Drysor gyda chyflwynwyr a chymeriadau *Cyw*; bŵth lluniau GuestWho; a gweithgareddau amrywiol gan bartneriaid Cymraeg yr ardal gan gynnwys Canolfan Cymraeg Bro Morgannwg, Mudiad Meithrin ac Adran Chwaraeon yr Urdd.

Mae'r datblygiadau newydd hefyd yn cynnwys bar, gyda chwrw arbennig yn cael ei greu ym mragdy lleol Tomos & Lilford i ddathlu'r digwyddiad, a bydd Ffwrnes Pizza a Slow Pig yn arlwyo'r ŵyl.

Elfen hollbwysig i Gŵyl Fach y Fro yw ei fod yn ddigwyddiad rhad ac am ddim, mewn lleoliad unigryw, cyhoeddus a phoblogaidd ar Ynys y Barri, gan ei wneud yn ddigwyddiad hynod hygyrch i bawb; boed yn siaradwr Cymraeg, neu'n cael eu profiad cyntaf o'r iaith a'r diwylliant.

Dywedodd Robert Thomas, rheolwr-gyfarwyddwr Cyngor Bro Morgannwg: "Yn dilyn ymlaen o lwyddiant yr ŵyl llynedd, rydym yn falch iawn i gynnig ein cefnogaeth barhaus i Fenter Bro Morgannwg i gynnal Gŵyl Fach y Fro ar Ynys y Barri unwaith eto eleni. Rydym yn ystyried yr ŵyl yn rhan annatod o'n rhaglen ddigwyddiadau yr haf, ac yn edrych ymlaen i gefnogi y trefnwyr unwaith eto i godi proffil yr iaith Gymraeg trwy gerddoriaeth, dawns ac adloniant yn yr ŵyl."

Dywedodd Ben Thomas, aelod o'r band Lost in Chemistry: "Mae Cystadleuaeth Brwydr y Bandiau 2015 wedi bod o help mawr i ni i dorri mewn i'r Sîn Roc Gymraeg – fel rhan o'r wobr rydym wedi cael profiadau gwych o berfformio ar Lwyfan y Maes ac yn Maes B llynedd yn ogystal â gweithio'n agos gyda'n mentor Mei Gwynedd i recordio mwy o ganeuon Cymraeg i ychwanegu at ein rhaglen.

"Mae'n gret gweld bod gŵyl gerddoriaeth Gymraeg nawr wedi cael ei sefydlu ym Mro Morgannwg, ac rydyn ni'n edrych ymlaen yn fawr i berfformio ar lannau Ynys y Barri fis Mehefin!"

Bydd modd i ymwelwyr wirio'r rhaglen a'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am Gŵyl Fach y Fro ar wefan, tudalen Facebook a Twitter Menter Bro Morgannwg: www.menterbromorgannwg.cymru; Facebook: Menter Bro Morgannwg; Twitter: @MIBroMorgannwg.

Launching Gwyl Fach y Fro 2016!

MENTER Bro Morgannwg is pleased to announce that Gŵyl Fach y Fro will return once again this year to Barry Island – on Saturday, June 18.

This annual Welsh arts and music festival was established by Menter Bro Morgannwg last year, to celebrate and raise the profile of the Welsh language in the Vale. With thanks to Welsh Government, Wales Arts Council and the Vale of Glamorgan Council for their continued support, this one-day festival will once again be an important part of the Vale Council's summer events programme.

Performing in Gŵyl Fach y Fro 2016 will be Sŵnami, Sorela, Meic Stevens, Wonderbrass, Hanna Morgan (local singer-songwriter who is also an ex-pupil of Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg) and Lost in Chemistry (local band from Barry, and winners of the National Eisteddfod Battle of the Bands 2015).

Hundreds of schoolchildren from the Vale's Welsh medium schools will also take to the stage to perform during the day.

There are lots of new elements to this year's festival, and one of the exciting developments for 2016 will be stalls selling Welsh local produce and gifts, which will be located in the stunning beach huts on the promenade.

There will also be street entertainment and workshops with NoFit State circus; Cardiff Arts Collective workshops and exhibitions; a show, storytime, and treasure hunt with popular presenters and characters from S4C's *Cyw*; GuestWho photo booth; and various activities organised Welsh language partners in the Vale including Welsh for Adults, Mudiad Meithrin and the Urdd Sport Department.

The new developments will also include a bar, which will stock a special ale made by local brewers Tomos & Lilford to celebrate the event, and Ffwrnes Pizza and Slow Pig will cater.

An important element of Gŵyl Fach y Fro is the fact that entry is completely free, in this unique, public and popular location on Barry Island, which makes the event completely accessible to all; Welsh speakers, Welsh learners, or those who wish to experience the Welsh language and its culture for the first time.

Robert Thomas, Vale of Glamorgan Council's chief executive, said: "Following on from the success of last year's festival, we are delighted to offer our continued support to Menter Bro Morgannwg in hosting Gŵyl Fach Y Fro at Barry Island once again this year. We consider the festival integral to our summer events programme, and are looking forward to working with the organisers once again to support them in raising the profile of Welsh language through music, dance and entertainment at the festival.

Ben Thomas, a member of Lost in Chemistry, said: "The Battle of the Bands 2015 competition has given us valuable experience and assistance to break into the Welsh-language music scene – the prize included an opportunity to perform in the National Eisteddfod and Maes B, as well as to work closely with our mentor Mei Gwynedd to record more Welsh songs to add to our repertoire.

"It's great that an annual Welsh music festival has now been established in the Vale, and we're very much looking forward to performing on Barry Island in June!"

Visitors will be able to view the programme in full as well as receive the latest news about Gŵyl Fach y Fro from Menter Bro Morgannwg's website, Facebook and Twitter pages: www.menterbromorgannwg.cymru; Facebook: Menter Bro Morgannwg; Twitter: @MIBroMorgannwg.

Gwyl Fach y Fro, July 2015.

'There is hope if you are in debt'

IT is believed that about four million people in this country are in some form of debt.

Financial mismanagement puts a great strain on family life, many couples end up in the divorce courts because of the financial situation they are in.

Some people commit suicide.

I have been in this situation myself, and I know what it is like.

The most important thing I learned was not to ignore it, but to take action as soon as possible.

There is a website called www.Money.Advice.service.org.uk, telephone 0300 500 5000.

This website gives really good advice on all sorts of money matters, e.g. debt, money management, household budgeting, pensions, etc.

There are also several debt counselling agencies who do not charge and offer good advice on debt matters.

Christians Against Poverty, telephone 0800 328 0006; Payplan, telephone 0800 280 2816; Debt Advice Foundation, telephone 0800 043 4050.

David S Ball, Swansea.

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Vale celebrates 7th walking festival on Barry Island

Valeways supporters are joined at Barry Island by the AM.

WALKERS gathered for the seventh Vale of Glamorgan Walking Festival from the former Tourist Information Centre, Barry Island on May 19.

They were joined by Vale AM Jane Hutt, who said: "This excellent walking festival has been organised by the charity Valeways for the past seven years with support from the Vale Council, Barry Town Council, the Ramblers, the Vale Music Festival, the South Wales Geologist Association and the Wildlife Trust.

"This year's festival offered walks for all, which perfectly showcased the beautiful Vale of Glamorgan."

For more information about Valeways and their guided walks – as well as their vital maintenance and preservation work – visit the website at: www.valeways.org.uk/.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Vintage railway

THE Barry Tourist Railway will be operating vintage trains from Barry Island over the spring bank holiday weekend, May 28, 29, 30. The funfair will also operate.

Poetry and 'Elmer Day'

LOCAL poet Paul Evans will be at Griffin Books in Penarth from 7pm this evening (Thursday), reading from his collection *Dry Stoned Walls*.

Then on Saturday, May 28 from 10am – 4pm the shop will hold an 'Elmer Day' for younger children, with storytelling, activities, special offers and a colouring competition, all celebrating the popular patchwork elephant. Admission to both events is free with refreshments provided.

Beach clean-up

THE Friends will hold their monthly beach clean on Bank Holiday Monday, May 30, at Watchtower Bay, The Knap, Barry.

Volunteers should meet at 3pm at the Watchtower near the old Knap lido.

"Why not come along and spend an hour helping your community? We look forward to welcoming volunteers old and new," a spokesman said.

STUDENTS GET TOGETHER FOR A MUSIC WORKSHOP

RECENTLY, members of the Bryn Hafren Comprehensive School year-12 music class visited Gladstone Primary School.

The group was made up of eight year-12 music students: Nicole Boyles, Lukas Wallis, Eleri Mees, Cerys Thomas, Lucy Bellinger, Kia Braund, Chloe Thurlbert and Holly Lashmar.

As part of the year-12 music course it is a requirement for students to take part in teaching a community project, which could consist of any number of musical tasks. In this case, the group taught a selection of year-6 students from Gladstone Primary how to sing 'Stitches' by Shawn Mendes.

After watching several lessons at Bryn Hafren, the students attempted to emulate their music teachers Miss Bryony Doyle and Mr Lewis Green with Bryn Hafren year-7 pupils. The results were excellent, as noted by many of the teachers from Gladstone Primary School.

As the excitable year-6 pupils entered the hall, they were met by a group of equally excited sixth form students who, together with their armoury of instruments, were ready for the workshop to begin.

The workshop started with the learning criteria and the year-6 pupils quickly jumped on board with ideas being thrown around. They were able to show their knowledge of musical techniques and after being introduced to a vocal toolbox the pupils flourished, and the workshop was able to move along quickly.

After a polished demonstration of their own, the sixth form students went about teaching Gladstone the song 'Stitches' and after an extremely successful first run-through, more complex features and techniques were added to further improve the piece performed by this collection of budding stars.

Overall, the workshop was deemed a great success for both sets of students with the year-12 class being invited back for further workshops in the future.

Hopefully, the children of Gladstone were able to directly benefit from this experience, as they were taught key singing skills such as how to form and maintain a harmony, singing in call and response, singing in canon, as well as utilising accompaniments such as bongo drums.

The pupils voiced their opinions that, in future, they want to incorporate an even larger range of instruments into future performances, and this is something that could be an exciting proposition for the next workshop.

Written by Lukas Wallis and Nicole Boyles.

Aberthin Tractor Boys enjoy a 'Busman's Holiday' fundraising run on the Gower

THE Aberthin Tractor Boys are well known in the Vale and Bridgend county borough for their fundraising tractor runs.

However, recently the guys, girls and their families, roamed further afield and decided to take in Swansea, the iconic Mumbles, and, of course, the Gower.

This time funds raised will go to Singleton Hospital's premature baby unit. GEM photographer Glyn Evans was on hand to capture the best moments on a great day out.

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

OTHER PICTURES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.

Pictures can be purchased by contacting:

E-Mail: ffotoimage@tiscali.co.uk
Telephone 07791 228684
www.ffotoimage.co.uk

LEFT: The Aberthin Tractor Boys love making their events a family day out!

Corporate plan to make Vale's vision a reality

VIEW FROM THE VALE

by Coun **NEIL MOORE**
Leader of the Vale of Glamorgan Council

I WOULD like to open this month's column by congratulating both Jane Hutt AM and Vaughan Gething AM on their re-election to the National Assembly for Wales, along with the regional Assembly Members for south Wales central. I would also congratulate Alun Michael on his re-election as Police and Crime Commissioner for south Wales.

Since the elections we also now have a new Welsh Government and I look forward to having a constructive and collaborative dialogue with them over the coming months.

While those elections may have been dominating the headlines, work has not stopped for those of us in the Vale of Glamorgan Council and has seen a number of exciting developments locally.

I have this month launched the Vale Council's new corporate plan, which was agreed following public consultation earlier this year.

This plan, which has been developed alongside the council's medium term financial plan (the financial framework of the council), sets out the key pieces of work the council will undertake between now and 2020 in order to make this vision a reality for residents.

The plan reflects this council's core values, which are: 'Ambitious, Open, Together and Proud', with the primary goal to foster 'Strong Communities with a Bright Future'.

It is, of course, much more than just a printed document: this council knows that residents across the Vale are working hard to support their families and caring for the young and old in our communities.

They expect and deserve good services, which meet their needs. This new corporate plan, therefore, sets out not only how we will deliver for them, but also our vision for the Vale of Glamorgan as a place we are all proud of, one where people choose to live, conduct business and enjoy visiting, where there are opportunities for all ages and where everyone feels valued and has an optimistic future.

Despite delivering savings approaching £35 million since 2010, this council has continued to provide priority services that meet local needs and was ranked as the top performing council in Wales last year, according to figures published by Data Unit Wales. This is why we are confident that we can deliver the programme of actions contained in this corporate plan and make a positive difference to the lives of local people.

As well as the launch of the new plan, I have reconfigured and decreased the cabinet membership that will deliver it.

As Leader of the council and cabinet member for resources and inward investment, I am now supported by Coun Lis Burnett as Deputy Leader and cabinet member for regeneration and education; Coun Bronwen Brooks as cabinet member for housing and social care and health; Coun Gwyn John as cabinet member for visible, leisure and regulatory services; and Coun Peter King as cabinet member for building services, highways and transportation.

This is the smallest cabinet that the council has ever had and I am confident that its membership is as strong as ever.

I have taken this continued action in reducing the size of the cabinet because when I became Leader of the council I pledged to reduce the cabinet membership.

Therefore, in 2012 I cut the number from 10 members to seven and last year I reduced it to six.

I have again taken the decision to reduce it further to five members this year. I have done so because it is the right thing to do, particularly as I am tasking staff across the council to make ever greater savings. I believe it is important and appropriate to 'lead by example' by cutting, yet again, the cost of the political leadership within the council.

I know this is a big ask for the five cabinet members, but I have absolute confidence that as a team we can ensure that our priorities can be achieved.

I therefore look forward to the next 11 months of this term of office and am determined that the good work we have carried out so far will continue.

I believe that what has been achieved throughout the Vale is a testament to the pledges we made when we were elected to run the council in 2012 and I know it is a better place now than when we took over.

As a great example, the past month has seen how we continue to provide more with less, in areas such as the next phase of our street lighting strategy.

The first year of the savings strategy, saw street lights being switched off between midnight and 6am. Although it was a difficult decision to take, it is estimated that we have saved around £217,000 and 1,042 tonnes of $C0^2$ emissions.

This substantial, year-on-year saving will now allow us to move to the second part of our strategy and invest in a much more efficient form of LED street lighting.

These LED lights will replace the current lighting units (initially in residential areas) and will be rolled out from this year. As they are highly efficient, they will not then need to be switched off and will revert to full night lighting, but much more economically than using the current conventional lighting units.

This month has also seen great news for our seaside resorts. Five seaside locations in the Vale have received national coast awards, including two prestigious Blue Flag awards, as part of Keep Wales Tidy's Seaside Awards 2016.

Whitmore Bay, Barry Island's main beach, and Penarth marina received Blue Flags, while Southerndown, Cold Knap, and Jackson's Bay all scooped rural seaside awards.

Meanwhile, our new annual rental scheme for the Barry Island beach huts sold out within hours of becoming available.

This is yet another sign that the resort is in better shape and more popular than ever.

However, don't despair if you haven't been able to book an annual rental: daily rentals are still available throughout the year, so why not come down and make the most of our fantastic resort.

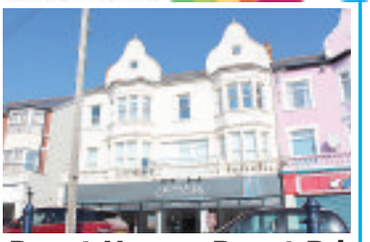
Finally, I would also like to remind you that the first weekend in June offers the perfect opportunity to sample everything that south Wales' premier seaside resort (Barry Island, of course) has to offer with its first ever 'Beats, Eats, and Treats Festival'.

Throughout the weekend, there will be cooking demonstrations from some of Wales' finest chefs, food and drink from the Vale's twin towns, craft stalls, children's entertainment and music provided by Bro Radio, as well as live entertainment.

The two days promise to be excellent fun for all.

I will certainly be in attendance and I look forward to seeing many of you there, as well.

allen & harris



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or apply in writing to:
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Visible Services and Housing
Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU or
Newydd Housing Association
121 Broad Street, Barry CF62 7AL

BASTIAN CLOSE, BARRY

H4U Reference 262115
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
- Two-bedroom house
- Gas central heating
- Double-glazing
- Enclosed garden

Rent £88.77 per week

CAWLEY PLACE, BARRY

H4U Reference 204369
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing

Rent £111.57 per week including water charges

COURT ROAD, BARRY

H4U Reference 1081716
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
- Four-bedroom house
- Gas central heating
- Double-glazing
- Enclosed garden

Rent £119.29 per week including service charge

CRAWSHAY COURT, LLANTWIT MAJOR

H4U Reference 233994
Suit. for a single person or couple over 60 – no pets
- One-bedroom bungalow
- Ground floor
- Level access shower
- Warden and alarm

Rent £119.40 per week inc. water and service charges

DALE COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 206850
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing

Rent £108.28 per week including water charges

DALE COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 206965
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing

Rent £107.83 per week including water charges

DYFRIG COURT, LLANTWIT MAJOR

H4U Reference 251867
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
- Two-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing

Rent £108.61 per week including water charges

GATEHOLM CLOSE, BARRY

Image unavailable

H4U Reference 129076
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens/parking

Rent £106.56 per week including service charges

GRAYBURN HOUSE, BARRY

Subject to local lettings policy and planning restrictions – no childr

H4U Reference 129088
Suitable for applicants over 40 meeting the maximum occupancy requirement – no pets
- Two-bedroom flat
- Fifth floor (with lift)
- Gas central heating
- Double-glazing

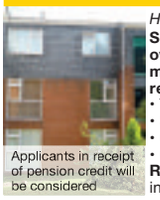
Rent £101.70 per week including service charges

LONGMEADOW COURT, COWBRIDGE

H4U Reference 230136
Suit for a single person or couple over 60– no pets
- One-bedroom flat
- Ground floor
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Community alarm/warden

Rent £118.34 per week inc. water and alarm charges

NEW HOUSE COURT, BARRY



Applicants in receipt of pension credit will be considered

H4U Reference 954770
Suitable for applicants over 55 meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
- Two-bedroom flat
- Second floor
- Central heating
- Communal garden/parking

Rent £97.85 per week including service charges

PENDOYLAN CLOSE, BARRY

H4U Reference 220349
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing

Rent £105.78 per week including water charges

PLASSEY HOUSE, PENARTH

H4U Reference 241343
Suitable for a single person over 40 – no pets
- Studio apartment
- First floor (no lift)
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Communal gardens

Rent £96.09 per week inc. water and communal chgs

SEVERN AVENUE, BARRY

H4U Reference 222622
Suit for a single person or couple over 55– no pets
- One-bedroom flat
- Second floor (no lift)
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

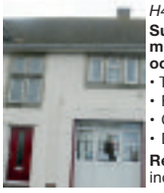
Rent £98.85 per week inc. water and warden charges

SLADEWOOD HOUSE, BARRY

H4U Reference 223705
Suit. for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement – no pets
- Two-bedroom flat
- Ground floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing

Rent £92.12 per week inc. water and communal chgs

STEWART ROAD, RHOOSE



H4U Reference 247969
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
- Two-bedroom flat
- First floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing

Rent £95.37 per week including water charges

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

WELL WALK, ST ATHAN

United Welsh Housing Association together with the Vale of Glamorgan Council announce the development of three properties in Well Walk, St Athan. The first phase is due in June 2016.

Expressions of interest are invited from Homes4U members.

- One, four–bedroom, six person house

Rent £120.30

- Two, three–bedroom, five person houses

Rent £101.26

There will also be a service charge attached to the properties, which is yet to be confirmed.

All houses have a downstairs toilet.

TREHARNE ROAD, BARRY

H4U Reference 226238
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
- Two-bedroom flat
- Ground floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing

Rent £89.93 per week inc. water and communal chgs

Visit the HOMES4U web page to view homes available immediately www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

Are you a council tenant who has been affected by the bedroom tax?

Would you like to discuss the options available to you? If so, call our Money Advice Line on **01446 709312** for constructive, impartial advice.

This number is not a bidding line for properties in this advert.

You must be a HOMES4U member to apply for any of the rented homes.
When bidding for more than one property you will be asked to state your order of preference.
All descriptions and other details are given in good faith and are believed to be correct but any potential tenant should satisfy themselves as to their correctness.
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NEW
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- THREE BEDROOMS
- CONSERVATORY
- OFF ROAD PARKING
- NO CHAIN

£212,000

DENBIGH WAY, BARRY
NEW
- SPLIT LEVEL HOUSE
- SEMI DETACHED
- VERSATILE LIVING
- SPACIOUS ACCOMMODATION
- GARAGE

£142,950

EVERARD STREET, BARRY
NEW
- TRADITIONAL MID TERRACE
- THREE BEDROOMS
- CENTRAL LOCATION
- NO CHAIN
- EARLY VIEWING ADVISED

£132,000

GLYNBRIDGE CLOSE, BARRY
NEW PRICE
- SEMI DETACHED
- TWO BEDROOMS
- RECENTLY FITTED KITCHEN
- CONSERVATORY
- GARAGE

£134,950

TYDFIL STREET, BARRY
NEW
- THREE BEDROOMS
- MID TERRACE
- CENTRAL LOCATION
- WELL PRESENTED
- NO CHAIN

£132,000

TYDFIL STREET, BARRY
NEW
- THREE BEDROOM
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- CENTRAL LOCATION
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- EARLY VIEWING ADVISED

£137,950

RALDEN CLOSE, BARRY
NEW & SSTC
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- DETACHED
- GARAGE
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- NO CHAIN

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NEW
- LARGEST APARTMENT WITHIN BUILDING
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- BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED
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- EARLY VIEWING ADVISED
- NO CHAIN

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Remembering the local men lost at Battle of Jutland...

ON May 31, it will be exactly 100 years since the British Grand Fleet and the German High Seas Fleet clashed in the North Sea at the Battle of Jutland.

This huge sea battle involving 274 warships, manned by over 70,000 sailors was the only time during the First World War that the main fleets of both nations fought each other.

In the early hours of May 31, 1916, the German fleet, under Admiral Scheer (consisting of 27 capital ships, plus over 80 light cruisers and destroyers) began a sweep along the Danish coast.

Alerted by German radio traffic the British Grand Fleet (consisting of 28 battleships and three battlecruisers) under Admiral Jellicoe, sailed from Scapa Flow while another force (consisting of six battlecruisers plus four battleships) under Admiral Beatty, sailed from Rosyth.

By mid afternoon, Beatty's force made contact with the German fleet and at 15.45 the battlecruisers of both fleets opened fire.

The British battlecruisers were built for speed, but to obtain this speed protective armour had to be sacrificed. This would now cause major problems.

The battlecruiser *HMS Indefatigable* received five hits in quick succession. The shells smashing through the lightly armoured decks caused a huge explosion which broke her in two.

Out of her crew of 1,133 men, only six survived. Among those killed were: engine room artificer William Thomas Watkins aged 21, the son of Mr and Mrs JW Watkins of 29 Dock St, Penarth. Also leading stoker Alfred John Harvey, son of Matthew and Elizabeth Harvey of 1 Riverside. (Alfred's younger brother Phillip also served at Jutland as a stoker aboard the battlecruiser *HMS New Zealand*. He would survive the war only to die of pneumonia in a naval hospital in February 1919.)

Just over 20 minutes after the sinking of the *Indefatigable*, the battlecruiser, *HMS Queen Mary* received several hits, exploded and sank in just 90 seconds. A huge 800 ft high tower of smoke marked where she had once been.

Only 20 men survived from a crew of 1,286. Among those killed were: ordinary seaman Charles Clifford Roberts from Millbrook Road, Dinas Powys and gunner William George Bwye, Royal Marine Artillery aged 21, son of Robert Bwye, 28 King Street, Penarth.

Sadly, 13 months after William's death Robert Bwye would receive notification informing him that William's younger brother Frank had been killed in France serving with the Royal Welsh Fusiliers.

Admiral Beatty now began to manoeuvre his ships north so that the Germans would follow him to where Jellicoe's more powerful fleet were waiting in ambush. At 18.14, Jellicoe received news of the position of the German Fleet and began to deploy his ships in battle formation.

Unfortunately, the 1st Cruiser Squadron under Rear Admiral Sir Robert Arbuthnot, consisting of the old armoured cruisers *HMS Defence, HMS Duke of Edinburgh and HMS Warrior* found themselves positioned between the two fleets.

These old ships were no match for modern German dreadnoughts and were soon being battered by German shells. *HMS Defence* was sunk with the loss of 903 men including Rear Admiral Arbuthnot, along with two Barry men: able seaman signaller Charles Edward Kirby aged 18 from, Amherst Crescent and able seaman Walter John Down from Kathleen Street.

Admiral Scheer now realised he was facing the full might of the British fleet and was completely outgunned. However, when the battlecruiser *HMS Invincible* suddenly became illuminated by an improvement in visibility several shells were fired at her and one of them penetrated Q turret causing a massive explosion. 1,026 men were killed in an instant.

Among them, Admiral Horace Hood and the last two Barry men to die in the battle: able seaman Robert Wills Davies 26, formerly of Kingsland Crescent and engineer artificer third class Thomas James Phillips aged 24, son of Captain John Phillips the Barry harbour pier master, who lived at 54 Court Road.

Under the cover of smokescreens and destroyer attacks, Admiral Scheer headed his battered fleet back to port. In the failing light, Jellicoe decided not to follow and so the battle came to an inconclusive end.

The Germans claimed victory as they had sunk three British battlecruisers, three armoured cruisers and eight destroyers with the loss of 6,094 British sailors. Compared to this, the Germans had lost one battlecruiser, one old battleship, four light cruisers and five destroyers – losing 2,551 men.

Two days after the battle the British fleet had been refuelled, had its ammunition replenished and was ready for further action. The German fleet, however, remained bottled up in port never to venture out for the rest of the war.

For the Germans, a hollow victory indeed.

ALUN ROBERTSON
Barry at War group

WI Federation's AGM attracts 500 members

THE Glamorgan Federation of Women's Institutes held its annual council meeting on May 10 at Princess Royal Theatre, Port Talbot.

Over 500 members attended from WIs across the county. Mrs Carolyn Davies, Chairman, welcomed the guests, who included Mrs Rhian Connick, head of NFWI Wales; Lisa Howells, NFEW Wales; Hilda Jane Jenkins, Ann Newton, Shena Sarjeant, Mavis Tieurney, representatives from Gwent Federation; the holding trustees and past Federation chairmen.

Mrs Clare Atherton presented the financial report and this was followed by guest speaker, Mrs Daphne Furneaux, a Chelsea Gold Medal winner for floral art who treated the members to a fabulous flower demonstration.

Mrs Carolyn Davies, who is retiring as Glamorgan Federation chair, he thanked everyone for their support and reflected on the last year when we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the WI.

She presented the Chairman's Plate to Mrs Daphne Furneaux, and thanked her for her long service and support.

Mrs Emma Leeke was the second guest of the morning and she spoke about her family history, the development of their business, and her role in their retail industry.

Members of Margam WI Ukulele Band, who only started to play in the last six weeks, sent everyone to lunch with a smile and a song!

The second session began with the introduction of the new board members and the presentation of awards, certificates and cups. The speaker for the afternoon was Mr John Benjamin, a gemologistexpert on antique jewellery and a presenter on The Antiques Roadshow.

He enthralled the members as he talked about his early career and experiences in the jewellery world and his explanation of the history of gems and the making of jewellery was fascinating.

Most of the members admitted to being fans of Antiques Roadshow and enjoyed listening to some of the stories behind the more unusual 'finds' and about the filming of the series.

A very successful council meeting ended with the singing of the anthems.

JE

WI issues an invite to new members

RÏOSEMARY BISHOP, one of our members, came along and gave us a demonstration in making cards.

The May afternoon meeting was a film show with music.

Fred Davies, who took up photography as a hobby at a young age put together a film show of photos and scenes to music. He donates all his proceeds to a charity Health Help International, which helps families in India.

Thursday afternoon every week, we have a knit and natter afternoon. Our ladies knit, sew and natter over a cuppa and a biscuit. We have just finished 13 lap blankets for the ladies of College Fields.

We also do a lot of knitting for Velindre hospital – Easter chicks, and they then sell them to raise money for the cancer charity.

We held two meetings in April: the first one was our Link meeting.

Other WIs in the area joined us for entertainment and refreshments.

We were entertained by Changing Scenes. This is a local children's group who put on a show entitled 'War Songs'.

The children came dressed like evacuees. They sang and danced and our ladies enjoyed themselves as they could sing along with them.

Our second meeting was our annual meeting. Our president of 14 years, June Davies, stood down and a new president was elected.

Barbara Bowring was elected as our new president.

The May evening meeting was fish and chips and a silent auction.

On The Queen's 90th birthday we celebrated by holding a tea party and had a royal quiz and music.

We are a very active WI. Why not come along and find out for yourselves? Information from secretary Jeanette Chilcott on 01446 410139.

JC

100 YEARS AGO... Double tragedy for Dinas Powys mum

MAY 31, 2016 was the 100th anniversary of the First World War Battle of Jutland. The battle brought sudden tragedy for many wives and mothers throughout the UK, but none more so than for Nellie Roberts of Mayfield in Dinas Powys.

In a move to destroy part of the British Grand Fleet led by Admiral Jellicoe, and to loosen the blockade which the Royal Navy had imposed on Germany, Vice Admiral Scheer of the German High Fleet sought an engagement off the coast of Denmark.

Two hundred and fifty ships were involved – the British losing 14 and the Germans 11. Both sides claimed victory. The German fleet stayed largely in port for the rest of the war, but remained an ever present threat.

Nellie's young son Charles Clifford Roberts had joined the Navy as a 15-year-old in 1912, serving as a boy sailor at the shore base *HMS Ganges* in Suffolk.

Aged 18, he became an Able Seaman on the 27,000 ton battleship *HMS Queen Mary* which fought at Jutland.

At 4.26pm a shell from the German battle cruiser *Derfflinger* struck *Queen Mary,* detonating one or both of her forward magazines.

The resulting explosion split the *Queen Mary* in half near her foremast.

As the after-part of the ship began to roll, it was rocked by a large explosion before sinking.

Of *Queen Mary's* crew, 3,266 perished, while just 20 were rescued.

Among those drowned was 19-year-old Charles.

The commander of the ship, Harry Pennell, who had captained the *Terra Nova* from Cardiff on Robert Falcon Scott's ill-fated expedition to the South Pole in 1912, also perished.

The following year, Charles' father lost his life when his merchant ship the *Redesmere* was sunk by U-boat UB40 off St Catherine's Point, the Isle of Wight.

So Nellie lost her only son and her husband, both at sea, within an 18-month period, and her daughter Betsey lost both her brother and father.

As well as on the war memorial in Dinas Powys, young Charles is commemorated on the Royal Navy memorial in Portsmouth, one of so many young men whose lives were sacrificed in that most tragic of conflicts which was the First World War.

DEREK BRUSHETT

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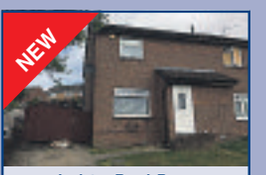

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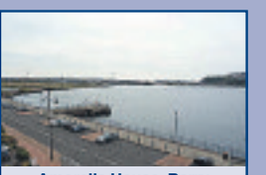

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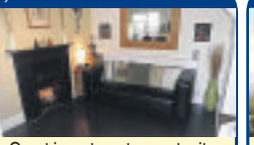

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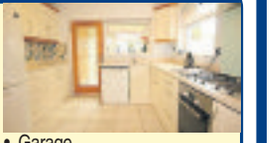

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(Figures correct as of April 2016)

Family Notices

CLARK
Ruby Myrtle

Peacefully passed away at home on Wednesday, May 25. Ruby, aged 93, originally born in Nottage, Porthcawl, residing in Llantwit Major. Wife of the late Jim Cross and Bill Clark, dearly loved mum to Patricia and Eileen, mother-in-law to Derek and Tony. Much loved grandmother to Andrew, David, Joanne and the late John and great grandmother to Hannah.

Will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.

Resting at Thomas Brothers Funeral Home until the funeral service at Coychurch Crematorium on Friday, June 3 at 1.15pm. Donations, if desired, to Marie Curie Cancer Care (Holme Towers), Bridgeman Road, Penarth, CF64 3YR.

TAPSCOTT
Angela

Norma and Raymond regret to advise that after a long hard battle, their daughter Angela passed away on Friday, 20 May in Wanstead, London.

Angela was the wife of Glyn Protheroe, mother of Daisy and Isabella, sister of Michael and partner Paula. Angela will be interred in London, which has been her home for the past 30 years.

MAYO
Elaine (Née Smith)

Suddenly on May 9 at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Elaine of Llantwit Major, dearly beloved wife of Wayne and a devoted mother and grandmother.

Resting at W.A.Brown & Son, College Street, Llantwit Major until the funeral service on Thursday, June 2, in St Illtud's Church at 10.30am, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium at 12 noon. Flowers may be sent to the funeral home.

BRITTON
David 'Dave'

David Britton sadly, but peacefully, passed away, aged 71, at the Waverly Care Home, formerly of Broughton Place, Barry. Much loved husband of Carol, cherished father to David, John and Tracy, special father-in-law to Racheal and Tracey, a special grandad to Aimee, Geraint, Anthony, Richard, Ryan, Alex, Bethan, Josh, Ashton and five great grandchildren.

He will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Dave is resting at The Vale Funeral Services, 181 Court Road, Barry, until his service at St David's Methodist Church, Colcot, Barry, on June 2 at 1.45pm followed by interment at Barry Cemetery. Flowers may be sent to the funeral home.

For further enquiries, please contact Lyndsay Ellis on 01446 407962.

JOHN
Leighton Treharne (aka Bones)

It is with great sadness that the family announce the unexpected death of Leighton on May 16. Son of the late Howell and Gwyneth, brother of Brian and Vanessa, father of Jason, Christian, Keely and friend of many.

Bones will be greatly missed.

Resting at Thomas Brothers, a celebration of his life will be held in Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend on Tuesday, May 31 at 1.15pm. Colourful ties/scarves/cravats are requested.

Family flowers only - donations to SCOPE can be made if desired to www.justgiving.com/ForBones. Donations may also be given at the Plough and Harrow.

MULLAN
Philip

Peacefully on May 19 at University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff, Philip, beloved husband of Sylvia, much loved dad and grampy.

Philip will be missed by all who knew and loved him.

Resting at The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until being received into St Helen's Church, Barry on Wednesday, May 25 at 4pm.

Funeral service to take place Thursday, May 26 at 11am, followed by interment at Barry Cemetery.

Family flowers only – by request, donations, if desired, may be made at the service to British Heart Foundation in memory of Philip.

Further information contact Lyndsay Ellis on 01446 407962.

HUMPHREY
Dorothy Jean

Suddenly on May 22 in the University Hospital of Wales, after along illness very bravely borne, Dorothy, aged 87 years, of Barry. Dearly beloved wife of Gordon, much loved mum of Judith and mother-in-law of Gary.

She will be greatly missed by all her loving family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son, Gladstone Road, Barry until the service in the funeral home chapel on Monday, June 6 at 1.45pm, afterwards to Barry Cemetery. Flowers or donations to Arthritis Research UK may be sent to the funeral home.

DAVIES
Ewan Sorton

Peacefully on Wednesday May 18, Ewan Sorton of Barry - retired deputy headteacher of Cynffig Comprehensive School, Kenfig Hill. Much loved uncle of Helen and Ruth and great uncle of Rachel, Matthew, Jonathan and Benjamin.

Funeral to be held on Monday, June 6 at 12 noon at the funeral home chapel of A.G. Adams & Son, Gladstone Road, Barry, followed by cremation at the Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 1pm.

Family flowers only, donations in lieu, if desired, to Crossroads.

ROWLANDS
Clive

Peacefully at Llandough Hospital on May 18. Dearly loved husband of Ann, a loving dad to all of his children and adored bampy.

Clive will be sadly missed by all his loving family and friends.

Resting at R.D. Johnson Independent Funeral Directors, 29 Holton Road, Barry until his funeral service on Thursday, June 2 at Bethel Baptist Church, Park Crescent at 1pm, followed by cremation at 2pm at the Vale of Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road, Barry. Family flowers only. Donations in memory of Clive to Macmillan Cancer Support, which will be collected at the service. No black to be worn please.

CHARLES
Iris Winifred

Peacefully on May 11 at home, Iris Winifred, aged 86 years, of Barry Island. Previously of Dorothy Lewis Care Home and originally of Atlas Road, Canton, Cardiff.

Iris will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry until the funeral on Monday, June 6. Funeral service at St John's Church, Canton, Cardiff at 11am, followed by cremation at Thornhill Crematorium, Briwnant Chapel at 12 noon.

Flowers may be sent to A.G. Adams & Son or, if desired, by Iris' request, donations may be handed to the funeral director after the funeral for Guide Dogs Trust.

THOMAS
Ronwyn Joy (Née Hayes)

Peacefully, at her home surrounded by all her loving family on May 18, Ron of Broad Street, Barry. Dearly beloved wife of Wyn, much loved mum of Gill, Pam, Gaynor, Lyn and Trish, a much loved mother-in-law, adored nan of 13 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son, Tynewydd Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry, until her funeral service in the chapel on Tuesday, May 31 at 11am, followed by cremation at the Cardiff & Glamorgan crematorium, Barry at 12 noon.

Family flowers only, but donations in lieu of flowers to Marie Curie Cancer Care (Holme Towers), Bridgeman Road, Penarth, CF64 3YR. Black attire optional.

Acknowledgements

LALANDE
Andrew

Thank you to all the family and friends that took the time to attend Andrew Lalande's funeral on Thursday, May 19. It was much appreciated, sorry we did not get the chance to speak to you all.

GRAY
Richard Crothers

Passed away peacefully, surrounded by all his family, on May 24, at ITU, Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend. Richie, of Llantwit Major, beloved husband of Etta, loving father of Mike, Gavin and Jon, much loved by all his grandchildren and family.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Thursday, June 2, service 2pm at Tabernacle Presbyterian Church, Methodist Lane, Llantwit Major, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend at 3.15pm. No flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to British Heart Foundation c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 3DZ.

CHARLES
Barbara

In loving memory of our loving mum and nanny who peacefully passed away on May 9. Much loved and missed by Lynne, Ken, David, Rob, Dominique, Sarah and Stephen.

Funeral service at Margam Crematorium on Tuesday, May 31 at 12 noon, afterwards at The Angel in Mawdlem.

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Notice

REWARD FOR INFORMATION
as to the whereabouts of a silver Peugeot Partner Combi. Small van type vehicle with side windows and double rear doors, involved in hit and run in Richard Street, Barry recently.
Please phone 07930 640877

Articles For Sale

Fischer Future Heater
Novo HI JW 800 Watts Bathroom Storage heater
Cost £1,255 Mar 2015
£500 ono.
01446 792126

Collective set of 6 bronze waterloo coins - £100.
Ladies biker jacket £40.
Ladies biker boots £20.
01446 401374
After 6pm. Barry. 21/22

One Zanussi Double Oven Ceramic Hob Cooker (1 year old). £175 ono.
01656 652058
07840 807226 21/22

M&S solid wooden extending table, 6 chairs, wipe clean cream seats & sideboard.
Rosewood coloured, VGC - £150. Barry.
01446 410231 21/22

Tower Scaffolding
New galvanised 6ft x 4ft, 20ft working height. Complete with safety rails, cross braces, ideal for builders or DIY.
£259
Free delivery.
07836 270723 21/22

Excellent four wheel mobility scooter & charger. Triumph Lark. Needs new batteries.
£200 ono. Collection only. Barry.
01446 413162 21/22

GUITAR AMP
Laney TF300 Tube Fusion. 3 channel with 2 overdrive channels, box reverb. £55
01446 775810 22

Downsizing Buyology solid oak sideboard
5ft wide with separate glazed dresser top
Total height 6ft 8"
£300
Buyology solid oak three drawer desk
3ft 7" wide
£140
All purchased last year and as new
01446 701506 22/23

FOR SALE
Acer 14" Laptop, Windows 10, unwanted gift. Still in sealed box.
£180 ono.
Karcher 120 Bar Pressure Washer K3.575. Little used with T.Racer and much much more.
Bargain £140
01446 794510 22/23

Rise and recline chair, good working order
£59 ono.
High perch on stool
£10
A double glazed half glass outside back door with white frame. Ht 286cm x 83cm wide. Frame 240cm x 92cm
£25
Collection only
01446 719350 21/22

1 x 3 seater & 1 x 2 seater sofas In VGC
£25 each
Brand new UPVC Double glazed windows inc glass, various sizes
£25 each Barry
01446 736392
07904 930008 22/23

Number Plate
ROI 2932
£350 ono
Barry
07533 498950
22/23

Motors For Sale

Hyundai i10 1.2
62 Plate, 18,000 miles
Under warranty Sept 2017
Met Stardust Grey, A/C
Elec windows, p/steering
Excellent condition. After 6pm.
£3,995
02920 593423 21

Ford KA 2002
1.3 in Silver, New brakes and oil sump, Ideal first car, Llantwit Major
£600 ono.
07772 425997
07951 168293 22

VW Passat July 2010
Diesel 1.9
GC
95,000 miles
07973 139865 22

Renault Megane Convertible
2007, 1.6 Petrol in Silver
Recent MOT/Service
52k miles in good condition
£1,700 ONO
07973 336005 21

Land Rover Freelander
1.8 Petrol, 56,000 miles
2005 in Grey, 3 door.
GC, MOT August
£2,499 ono.
07780 332962 22

'Happy 100th birthday' from the Vale Mayor!

The Mayor, with Mr John Wilcox and his children, Robert, Christine and Gillian.

MAYOR of the Vale, Coun Stuart Egan, visited Mr John Wilcox at Springbank Nursing Home in Barry last week, to wish him very many congratulations on the occasion of his 100th birthday.

Mr Wilcox, who was born in Cardiff but has lived in Penarth all his life, has been a resident of Springbank for just three years. A retired medical storeman, he was a proficient cyclist, moped enthusiast and also a talented woodworker. The Mayor presented him with a book on the Vale of Glamorgan.

Music students impress at festival

Jack Ollier.

MUSICstudents who receive lessons from Barry-based teacher Jo Weaving, recently took part in this year's South Glamorgan Festival For Young Musicians.

Isobelle Lambert, Olivia Kaunhoven and Tabitha Hughes, all from Barry, performed to an extremely high level in the intermediate piano class, receiving excellent feedback from adjudicator, Beate Toyka.

Jack Ollier performed to a high standard in both the young recitalist class and intermediate piano class.

Jack went on to be placed both first and second in the intermediate woodwind class, performing on recorder and clarinet.

He was then invited to perform in the festival gala concert in Cardiff, where he was awarded the prize for 'most promising woodwind performer' from across the whole of the festival competition.

Dinas' art exhibition gets bigger and better

DINAS POWYS Art Group, now in its 22nd year, will be holding its annual exhibition at the Parish Hall on June 11- 12 from 10am–4pm.

Feedback last year was extremely positive, with many comments about the high quality of the artwork and the range of subjects.

This year there will be some new features to appeal to an even wider audience:

In addition to a wide variety of original paintings, there will be a selection of personal images of Dinas Powys, perfect for anyone looking for a picture with local connections;

There will be crafts for sale, created by members of the group;

There will be a table of materials for children to create their own artwork under parental supervision.

As well as giving group members a chance to show their work, the exhibition raises funds for charity. This year there will be a donation from sales towards an electric wheelchair for nine-year-old Noah Gee, who has severe cerebral palsy.

Noah's grandparents, Roy and Gill have been active members of the art group for many years and are helping the fundraising efforts for Noah.

Admission to the exhibition is £1 for adults, including a drink, and children can come in free of charge. Children particularly enjoy getting involved in voting for the 'People's Choice' of favourite painting.

To find out more about the group,and to get a preview of some of the work to be exhibited, visit the website at: www.dinaspowysartgroup.org.uk. **SB**

ValePlus hosts garden party

VALEPLUS, the local charity that provides lifelong learning and leisure opportunities for people with a learning disability, is hosting a garden party at its centre in High Street, Barry, on Friday, June 10 between 1.30pm and 4pm.

The party will celebrate the 90th birthday of the Queen, and the official opening of the new garden after its makeover this spring.

There will be stalls, music, barbecue, cream teas and a raffle. Tickets (£5) available from Nova, Cafe No 5 or by contacting the chapel on 01446 746691.

Barry town Mayor is inaugurated

BARRY Town Council recently held their annual meeting and inauguration of the town Mayor in the Memorial Hall and Theatre, Barry.

Coun Charlotte Williams was elected as Mayor and her consort is Dr Gareth Williams. Coun Karl Kuhnell was elected as Deputy Mayor and his consort will be Mrs Meryl Kuhnell.

Father Ben Andrews of St Mary's Church will act as the Mayor's chaplain during her term of office.

The Mayor has nominated The Down Syndrome Association Wales, Life after Stroke Service and Breast Cancer Now as the charities she wishes to support during her term of office.

'Memory of Lesley will live on' – Vale AM

THE Vale AM Jane Hutt has paid tribute to ovarian cancer campaigner Lesley Woolcock, who died last week.

She said: "It was a privilege to have known Lesley. We first met when she was working as a teaching assistant at Oakfield Primary School and later through her vital work raising awareness of the importance of early diagnosis of ovarian cancer. Her wonderful memory and remarkable fundraising legacy will live on."

WI looks back on anniversary year

THE Rhoose WI held its annual meeting on May 12 at the Community Hall, when president Jenny Reed introduced WI adviser Caroline Davies who oversaw the election of the new committee and officers.

Business began with members voting on the two resolutions put forward by the NFWI. Both of these: Appropriate Hospital Care for Dementia Sufferers, and The Avoidance of Food Waste, were unanimously supported by members.

Officers' reports followed: treasurer Susan Grant reported on a busy, but successful financial year. Secretary Stella Hughes gave the committee report in which she mentioned successful fundraising events, and activities held by the Institute.

The president recalled that 2015 had been the 70th anniversary of Rhoose WI and this had been celebrated with an anniversary dinner when Rhoose members had been presented with commemorative brooches as a memento.

She thanked committee members for their hard work. She also thanked retiring committee member, Sue Hamer, for her support in organising knitting lessons for pupils at Rhoose School.

Pam Jupp gave a vote of thanks to the committee, after which the president handed the chair of the meeting to the WI adviser. Mrs Davies began with a short talk on Denman College, at which the NFWI provides courses and activities for WI members.

As the Wales and Shropshire co-ordinator for the Save Denman Appeal, Mrs Davies voiced concerns that the Grade ll listed building is in urgent need of repair. The national membership is to be asked to support the appeal for two years.

The committee and officers were all elected unanimously, with the president, secretary and treasurer remaining in post.

The competition was won by Ray Reynolds and the raffle by Pat Richards.

The next meeting will be held on June 2 at 7.30pm in the Community Hall, Stewart Road, when the speaker, Sharone William, will talk about 'Health and Wellbeing'.

New members and visitors will be welcome. **JJ**

Penarth Grow Show Share event is back!

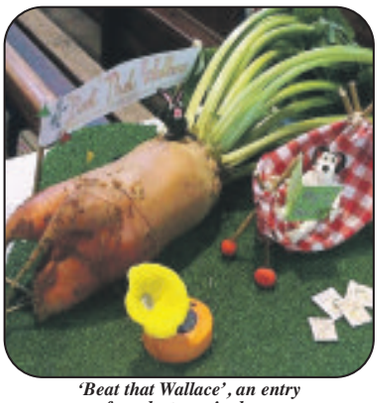
LAST year, many visitors were delighted with this unusual event which demonstrated how much is grown, made and created in Penarth.

It is back again over the weekend of July 9-10 in St Augustine's Church (the first week of the Penarth Festival).

Friends of St Augustine's who are behind this fun, quirky event are encouraging people to 'sign up' now if they would like to take part.

Entries can be anything to do with growing – fruit, vegetables, flowers, craft, preserves, poems, and more. Children are being asked to create miniature gardens.

The organisers, Friends of St Augustine's, said of the event: "Some of the entries last year were very imaginative, others demonstrated how much is grown in the town, and many just made you smile – it was a really uplifting event and helped remind us all that Penarth really is 'The Garden by the Sea'."



'Beat that Wallace', an entry from last year's show.

Anyone wanting to enter, should email: friendsofstaugustinespenarth@yahoo.co.uk; call 02920 707828 or go to: www.friendsofstaugustines.org.uk for details.

Barry Sea Cadets launch new dinghy

Barry Sea Cadets recently launched its new RS Quest Dinghy.

THE Barry Sea Cadets unit, headed up by PO Crapnell, launched its new RS Quest Dinghy, donated through funding by the Millennium Stadium Charitable Trust and the Reardon Smith Nautical Trust.

Lt Charles Reardon Smith RN Ret. was present at the launch and was thanked for the trust's kind support by PO Crapnell.

It was then down to two lucky junior cadets and two senior cadets to have the maiden voyage at the Barry Community Water Activity Centre where Barry Sea Cadets meet on a Tuesday and Thursday evening (subject to weather) to hone their skills in kayaking, motor boat and sailing.

Barry Sea Cadets is open to all children aged 10-18 and as a Sea Cadet, children will test their talents and stamina and develop new skills to give them a head start in life. They will also get the chance to make new friends and have fun.

If you would like to join, call 07954286675 or email barryseacadets@gmail.com.

Garden to mark 'volunteers week'

BARRY Community Garden is open to the public on Friday, June 10, to celebrate the hard work of its volunteers and to welcome those interested in volunteering.

The garden, managed by Newydd Housing Association, is open to the public from 10am to 2pm.

The event will celebrate Volunteers Week which was established in 1984 and recognises the contribution volunteers make to our communities every day.

The garden, located just off Dyfnallt Road next to Pencoedtre Splash Park at the end of Cynan Close, Barry, is open on Mondays from 10am-4pm and Wednesdays from 10am-2pm. Twenty volunteers regularly meet to learn about gardening and help out with activities.

If you are interested in volunteering, come down to our open day or contact Lisa Williams on 07501 468694.

Junior Disney show

THE junior section of Barry-based Billboard Ensemble will present Disney's *Alice In Wonderland Junior* at Dinas Powys Parish Hall on June 2-4.

Performances at 7.30pm, with a matinee at 2.30pm on Saturday, June 4. Tickets from 07538 000180.

Follow us on Twitter - @gem_news

Porthcawl RFC holds end of season awards

PORTHCAWL RFC recently held their presentation evening and the following awards were handed out: Captain - Richard Hnyda; rising star - Jak Robbins; most improved player - Anthony Griffiths; player's player of the year - Gareth Rees; player of the year - James Burge-Davies.

TW

HOLTON ROAD AFC SAYS THANKS TO S J BUILDING

Holton Road under-7s in their new football kit.

HOLTON ROAD under-7s would like to say a massive thank you to Steve and Kate and their team at S J Building for supplying us with our new football kits and training jackets, for their football season and match day experience at Cardiff City.

S J Building is a local, family business and have been providing services for over 12 years throughout the areas of Barry, and the Vale of Glamorgan.

Local sponsors are the lifeblood of grassroots football, and without them, many sides wouldn't be able to offer children the opportunity of developing in football.

Holton Road are currently recruiting for the following ages in readiness for next season (under-12s and under-16s). We also provide a soccer school for children from the ages three to six. Please email holtonroadafc@hotmail.com for more details.

OM

Barry RFC end season with win

Ashley Adams' pass from Brad White resulted in a try for Barry.

BARRY RFC ended their season on a high last week with a win over Club Rygbi Caerdydd, a result that sees them finish in third place in the league.

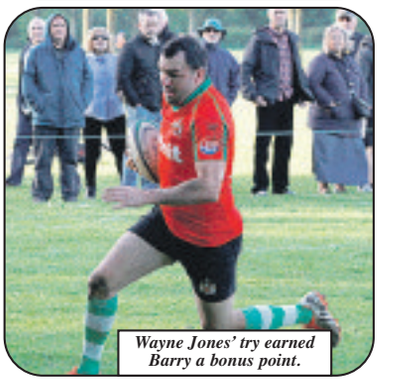
HOWARD POOLE was on hand to capture the action from the season's finale, and the club will be looking forward to next season having achieved so much this year.

The winning numbers for last week's Mega Lottery were 2, 4, 17 and 20, which failed to produce a winner - this week's prize will be £2,040.

AJ

Brad White.

Alyn Evans.



Wayne Jones' try earned Barry a bonus point.

Hockey veterans in seven goal thriller

PENARTH Hockey Club's veterans XI continue to put competitive minutes under their belt in preparation for another crack at the prestigious Welsh Masters title in June.

Gwent became just the second veterans side to visit Penarth's new home at Stanwell School, but were only able to do so after calling on some 'under-age' talent to make up the numbers.

The home team held the upper hand for much of the opening half, with Marc Sawyer eventually finishing off a slick passing move that began in defence.

Having gone ahead, Penarth continued to play with confidence, and quickly added a second as Craig Llewellyn fired home an improvised penalty corner, but were fortunate to take to their two-goal advantage into the interval.

The visitors were not to be denied, however, and pulled a goal back within a minute of the restart.

Spurred on by their early success, the visitors quickly pulled level as the hosts were again found wanting in the middle of the park.

The home side finally retook the lead as Dave Watkins produced a trademark finish, but again had to withstand renewed Gwent pressure from the restart.

The resistance could not last forever, and the scores were soon levelled again as the home side began feeling the effects of their earlier efforts.

Not for the first time, the Vale side then proved unable to see the game through to a shared conclusion, allowing Gwent a half-chance that, with just a minute left on the clock, was to prove decisive in a 4-3 scoreline.

The encounter with Gwent was just the latest in a run of fixtures for the veterans side. The side has already taken on old foe Whitchurch as well as taking part in a three-way contest hosted by Swansea and featuring touring side Grays of Cambridge as they made their first appearance in Wales.

The 1-4 scoreline against Whitchurch did not reflect the balance of play on the night with several key players, missing.

The triangular tournament proved to be another matter, however, with the opening day's fixtures against both Swansea and Grays both resulting in heavy defeats for the Vale club.

The scorelines did not necessarily reflect the part that Penarth played in both games.

The Grizzlies returned to play Grays for a second time on Sunday morning, and produced a much improved performance, albeit suffering a late defeat.

CL

Barrivale Bridge Club results

LATEST results from Barrivale Bridge Club for May 17:

1st Mark Roderick & Mike Best 63.69%; =2nd Kay Dyer & Noelle Bond 55.73%; =2nd Peter Millar and Jenny Vaughan 55.73%. Vivien Liles and Sam Fellows won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. A partner may be arranged if required.

If you would like to join us ring 01446 418380, 01446 733425 or 01446 735592, or visit the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

Alternatively players, inexperienced or new, may attend on Fridays at 10am at the same address.

DR

Follow The GEM on Twitter - find us @gem_news

Panthers sign off with draw against Athletic

PORTHKERRY Panthers under-15s played their last competitive football match on the Buttrills field on Saturday, May 14, before disbanding.

Ironically that game was against their local rivals since day one, Barry Athletic, who still had an outside chance of winning the league.

The match was very competitive, as it always has been with these two sides and played in the usual fantastic spirit with bragging rights available for the last time between friends.

This game did not disappoint and the Panthers started slowly. The Athletic had the better of the first half, without creating too many chances, the best effort from them came from a long range effort from Evan Wells that came off the bar.

The opportunity of the first half came from an in-swinging corner taken from the impressive Jack Shewring which was headed off the line by his Panthers team mate Jack Stokes, who also saw a long range effort skim the bar.

The second half was very even with the Athletic's danger man Harry Edwards forcing the Panthers keeper Ben Wallace into a fine save to keep the scores level.

The Panthers were making some last-ditch tackles to keep the Athletic at bay with both Olly White and man of the match Rhys Everitt blocking everything thrown at them.

The Panthers were creating chances however with Jack Cummings shooting just wide from distance and Ben Hayes seeing a one on one go just wide.

Jacob Morgan and Iwan Hadfield were growing into this game with both shots saved by Matthew Mayer. Will Drew and Sam Hopkins were determined not to be on the losing side against their former club while captain Ben Jones covered every blade of grass.

The Athletic had the majority of the possession but with just minutes left the Panthers were awarded a free-kick just outside the box and maybe - just maybe - there would be a last minute twist.

As Callum Bellemy was suspended, the resultant free-kick, taken by Jack Shewring, found its way into the top corner only for a wonder save from Matthew Mayer to deny the Panthers their last ever win.

The Panthers had to settle for their first ever 0-0 draw in their last ever league game which was a fitting way to end. Congratulations to Cogan for the double this year!

The Panthers management would like to thank all the boys for their efforts not just this year but over the last 10 years.

Best wishes go to past Panthers players Adam Davies, Lloyd Perkins, Declan Edwards, Joe Mellars and many more for all the wonderful memories of past days gone by.

RJ

Under-19s thank sponsors

BARRY Town United under-19s would like to thank all their sponsors who made the 2015/2016 season possible.

The under-19s have played in the Welsh League Youth Division East for the past three seasons, which has been a great experience for all involved.

Home kit sponsors Robert Price and BRT International have sponsored the team for the last three years and the players and coaches would like to thank them for their continued support.

BRT international director, Tony Yeo, said: "We have been proud to be able to sponsor the boys for the past three years and glad we can help youth development within the community."

Molly Pike from Robert Price commented: "As a local company it has been great to sponsors Barry Town under-19s knowing we have been able to help local talent play at a high level."

Away kit sponsors Scott Pallets and M&M Coachworks have both come on board this season and without the support of all these local businesses the team would not be able to compete at this level.

It is the last season for a lot of the players and the coaches would like to thank Barry Town United for giving them the opportunity to be part of this great club and wish the club the very best for the future.

NO

NFU Mutual charity golf at Southerndown

THE NFU Mutual Charity Golf Day was held recently at Southerndown Golf Club, with 37 teams taking part, and raised £4,000 that will be going towards the Velindre Cancer Care Centre's "Ride the Rockies" campaign.

Julian Kelly, the senior agent, shall be participating on this in September and trying to raise in excess of £10,000 towards this amazing campaign.

Results: Ladies individual winner Mrs Claire Davies with 38 stableford points; runner-up Mrs Norma Barber with 29 points; longest drive – Mrs Sarah Morris.

Men's individual winner Jon Sinclair with 39 points;

runner-up Darren James with 37 points; third place Mr Lloyd James with 37 points.

Team event: Ladies with 93 points – Southerndown ladies A team, men's with 120 points – Sinclair Audi, Bridgend; runner-up with 114 points – Flat out Alloys; 3rd with 110 points – Rainbow International.

Nearest the pin on par 3 (four holes) – Dave McGill, Amy Watkins, Alan Kinevane, Neil Williams; men's longest drive – James Bater; nearest the pin in two on the 18th - David Williams, Llancadle. Correctly guessing 168 balls would fail to return home – Peter Francis, Pencoed.

Sadly no-one won the hole in one competition on the Par 3 holes - thanks to Oil Facilities Limited of Llandow for sponsoring this, and for Nathaniel's Car Sales in Bridgend for providing the car not won!

Sincere thanks to the many sponsors whose support was greatly appreciated.

Should you wish to help Julian in his target, then please go to: https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/juliankellybikeride2.

TM

Ladies' captain welcomes golfers to charity morning

THE Brynhill ladies' charity coffee morning on May 9 was a very successful day with well over 60 ladies entering the 10 hole golf competition.

After a few really bad days weather-wise, the ladies welcomed the sunshine - perfect golfing weather!

The ladies' captain, Liz Fine, nominated Wales Air Ambulance as her charity for her year of office. The money raised at the coffee morning will go to this very worthwhile cause.

The cake, bottle and book stalls were very popular along with the merchandise from the Wales Air Ambulance.

Liz thanked the catering and bar staff and thanks to those who helped, including Madeleine Williams - they all made the day a great success.

The ladies' captain thanked all the lady golfers who came from golf clubs across the Vale and beyond - Radyr, Porthcawl, Southerndown, Glamorganshire, Cottrell Park, St. Mary Hill, St Athan, Whitchurch and ladies from Newport.

Liz announced the winners and runners-up - home winner: Andrea Page - 20 points; home runner-up: Carole Allen - 15 points. Away winner: Shirley Lewis (Southerndown) - 19 points; away runner-up: Maureen Anderson (St Athan) -16 points. Longest drive - Shirley Morgan (Radyr); Nearest the pin - Carole Jones (St Athan).

JK

Tynewydd grabs second place in final day drama

TYNEWYDD FC went into their final game of the season knowing nothing more than a win would be good enough if they had any chance of finishing second this season, plus they needed to significantly increase their goal difference against Sully Sports.

The game finished 3-0 with smart finishes from both Lloyd Union and Ross Smith with a typical powerful header from Andrew Colburn also, with Tynewydd knowing they had missed plenty of chances that hopefully they wouldn't pay for!

Knowing their opponents Cadoxton Barry faced Sully in their final match of the season, Tynewydd had a goal difference advantage of plus seven, leaving Sully to make up eight goals minimum.

At half-time of that game, with Sully 5-0 up, Tynewydd's chances seemed bleak to say the least, but a second half rally by Cadoxton meant they won the half 3-2, with the match ending 7-3 to Sully, giving Tynewydd second place in Division One and promotion to the Premier League for the first time.

Having reached the last three successive Supporters Cup finals this was Tynewydd's best-ever league run, finishing second behind Cogan who Tynewydd actually beat at home and away this season.

They can take some solace from second place, albeit knowing that if they had scored a few more goals they could have actually have pushed Cogan even closer.

The league campaign was built around a solid defence, conceding just 22 goals in 22 league games, which speaks volumes of the back four and goalkeeper, and also the great team spirit, with no team having an easy game, with Tynewydd's never say die attitude producing countless late wins.

Moving into the Premier League won't be easy but as long as they can keep their team spirit and battling attitude they will give any team a game.

The team would like to give massive thanks to manager Gareth Union for once again leading a great bunch of players, all pulling together for the team's success, with special mention to coach Paul Union for getting the boys prepared for the games in training.

Squad: J.Shepherd, P.Pydanah, G.Pycroft, G.Osborne, J.Brana, J.Clissett (c), N.Haincock, D.Miller, M.McMarthy, A.Colburn, L.Union, G.Tinsley, Ll.Union, R.Smith, C.Marchant, G.Richards, J.Williams, C.Coleman, L.Peterson, G.Union, C.Harding, S.Eveleigh.

JC

Football camp at Gladstone

BLS Coaching will be running a half-term football camp at Gladstone Primary School from May 31-June 2, 9am-3pm.

For more information please call 07703515966, email blscoaching@gmail.com or find us on Twitter or Facebook.

Go to the **The GEM** for the latest stories and breaking news...
www.barry-today.co.uk
www.cowbridge-today.co.uk
www.llantwit-major-today.co.uk
www.bridgend-today.co.uk
www.porthcawl-today.co.uk

Cowbridge's Isabel lands first winner!

THE South Wales and Monmouthshire hunt-racing season came to an end at rainsoaked Lower Machen on Saturday and on a personal note, I have to thank those kind and thoughtful enthusiasts who plotted, unknown to me, a special presentation held in honour of my 50 years of reporting on the Welsh point-to-point scene for the national and local press.

They even managed to get my wife Jacqueline, who was presented with a most beautiful bouquet of flowers by the legendary Tim Rooney, and family, to attend – without my knowledge, and it was a great thrill to be presented with a portrait of Mandryka, which I had one time dubbed 'The Welsh Wonder' by Mrs Shan Farr who, as Shan Morgan, had ridden him to success in 38 ladies' open races. For the record, Mandryka also won five men's open races and a Chepstow hunter chase.

The portrait which they had commissioned was by Carmarthenshire 's Miranda Bowen and when my race-reporting days are over it will be a constant reminder to me of the many friends I have made in Wales and beyond over the years.

It also gave me a thrill to report the first success of Isabel Williams, aged 18, in a handful of rides whowon the four-five and six-years old open maiden race on her father Evan's six-year-old grey gelding Tenant Farmer, trained by her mother Cath at Llancarfan in the Vale.

Not only did I have the pleasure of reporting on the many successes of Isabel's father, now the leading Welsh National Hunt trainer, between-the-flags, but also Isabel's late grandfather Rhys and grandmother Mary Evans, who was present to witness her grand-daughter's memorable moment.

Always in a handy position throughout, Tenant Farmer ran on strongly in the closing stages to score by 15 lengths from River Wye. "The race seemed to take ages and ages," said a delighted Isabel who could be in action again at this Saturday's North Hereford meeting.

Racing got under way with the Gelligaer Farmers hunt members, subscribers and farmers race which was won by Justin Hoskins' 10-year-old chestnut gelding Blazing Buck who was notching up his third win in a row.

Blazing Buck was ridden by Presteigne's Hannan Lewis who has ridden sheds of winners in Wales but never seems to qualify for any of the many awards that are presented each year.

Kuwait-born Hannah took up the running on the long-odds on favourite, who was judged to be the best turned out horse in the race, four fences from home to win by 30 lengths from Earth Tremor (Rhys Hughes).

Mr Hoskins said of the recent Flete four mile ladies' open race winner: "He's been working so well at home that we just had to give him another run."

Carmarthen National Hunt trainer Dai Rees won the confined race with his 12-year-old Macarthur who in 2008 had been a group two winner at Royal Ascot! Well ridden by Carmarthen's Charlotte Evans, Macarthur went to the front two fences from the finish to win by 10 lengths from Tiger Rag (Richard Patrick) with the favourite Captain Camelot (Tom David) a further six lengths back in third place.

A mud splattered Charlotte said: "He travelled really well throughout the race." Mr Rees joked: "This horse is nearly as old as you.

"He's been a pacemaker in Dubai and the hardest part is getting the saddle on him, as he is so full of himself."

Eight runners went to post for the mixed open race and Will Biddick's mount Posh Totty, who was bidding for a five-timer, was made favourite and when this eight-year-old chestnut mare struck the front four fences from home it looked as though backers might collect.

But it was not to be as the prolific Rosies Peacock (John Mathias) and Tony Star (James King) were never far away and in the closing stages had the race between them and jumping the last in front the French-bred Tony Star went on to win by 10 lengths from Rosies Peacock, with Posh Totty a further 12 lengths away in third place.

Tony Star, trained by Haverfordwest's Mickey Bowen, will now probably go back under rules with Mickey's father Peter Bowen.

National Champion rider Will Biddick, who was surprisingly paying a first visit to Lower Machen, chalked-up his 50th winner of the season when landing the restricted race on the Jack Barber-trained Athreeothree who after jumping the last fence alongside the pacemaking Mad Money (Richard Patrick) won by an easy one-and-a-half lengths.

The winner is by Presenting and at five-year-old was the youngest horse in the race and is owned by a syndicate who has been in partnership for 15 years.

Welsh champion rider John Mathias did not go home empty handed either as he won the seven-year-olds and over open maiden on Dai Rees' second winner of the day BackOfThe Rock which he owns in partnership with Paul Evans.

The 7-4 favourite, BackOfTheRock, had five lengths to spare over 20-1 outsider Red Rust, ridden by Conor Orr, and is trained by Mr Rees's partner Jane Jones.

Mr Evans said of his second winner of the day: "The horse has been in poor health and has had a wind operation but thankfully he's okay now and we might give him another run at Trecoed at the end of the season."

BRIAN LEE

Lloyd enjoys boost before the Blast!

DAVID LLOYD admits the Glamorgan squad needed a lift after their derby defeat by Gloucestershire in Bristol on Wednesday – so confirmation of the signing of South African superstar Dale Steyn to boost their NatWest T20 Blast squad could not have been better timed.

"I think the Blast is coming around at a good time for us," said the allrounder from north Wales, whose batting form has been a rare highlight of Glamorgan's start to the season as he followed a century against Kent with 99 in the first innings in Bristol.

"It's been a good start for me personally, but for the team it's been quite hard. The Blast gives us a chance to start from scratch in a totally different form of cricket."

Glamorgan open their Blast campaign in a televised game against Surrey at the Kia Oval next Thursday, when an attendance of more than 15,000 is already guaranteed, before their first home fixture at the SSE SWALEC on Sunday, June 1 against a star-studded Essex Eagles team including Wahab Riaz, Jesse Ryder and led by their newly-appointed one-day captain Ravi Bopara.

As a fellow former pupil of Shrewsbury School, David was stunned by the news that James Taylor will not play again because of a serious heart condition.

"I was lucky enough to get a scholarship for the sixth form, and the year I arrived James had just left," explained Lloyd, who was a contemporary of the Worcestershire and England Lions wicketkeeper batsman Joe Clarke at Shrewsbury.

"But he was still around quite a lot, especially working with our coach Paul Pridgeon. So we were in touch quite regularly and obviously I sent him a message when I heard the news – it was shocking really.

"Typical of James, when I got my hundred at Kent he sent me a message to congratulate me. I really appreciated that."

EDWARD BEVAN

Bridge results

RESULTS for the Vale of Glamorgan bridge club for May 23: 1st John Beard & Kevin Maddox 67.90%, 2nd Glyn Williams & Vida Halford 62.78%, 3rd Alan &Elaine Robins 56.77%.

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On and Off The Turf
with BRIAN LEE

THE latest 'Racehorses', the 69th in a series stretching back to 1947, has something for everyone whatever their angle on racing.

Look up any horse - there are 10,980 of them, each dealt with as a subject on its own - and you have an instant appreciation of its capabilities and the conditions it needs to live up to them.

The lavishly-illustrated 'Racehorses' runs to 1,216 pages and more than half a million words, indispensible for the new turf season and unbeatable value at £79 (post free in UK) – it is available from www.timeform.com or order by phone on 01422330540.

The extended essays in 'Racehorses' on the top horses are written to be entertaining and informative in equal measure,and are often wide-ranging in their scope.

Most of the topics covered are flaggged up in the book's introduction to help readers find their way around this bible of flat racing.

It does not confine itself to British racing as it covers hundreds of the best horses trained in Ireland and France, and also deals with many of the top international performers.

As for the whip, horses are different and react differently; it cannot be right to have to have rules that apply equally to a jockey riding a fully mature racehorse, perhaps with a lazy streak, and a jockey on an inexperienced and immature two-year-old, for example.

The rule should place more emphasis on incorrect use of the whip rather than how often it is used. The current numerical limit is at the heart of most of the problems.

The specifying of a limit often results in needless suspensions like the ones imposed on Andrea Atzeni and Frankie Dettori after the King George, which serve only to foster the false impression that racing has a welfare issue with the whip (the cushioned whip now in use encourages horses but does not hurt them.

'BLAST FROM THE PAST 1983' - HAMER'S BANWEN MINERS' DOUBLE

Paul Hamer, of Bridgend, landed a first and last race double at the Banwen Miners' Hunt Steeplechases.

Hamer took the Members' race on five-year-old *Anascend* and the second division of the Maiden on 10-year-old Flashtoun. Both horses are owned by former Welsh cross-country champion Bill Hancock.

St Athan farmer John Thomas partnered his grandfather's 12-year-old *Cottage Chest* to a five lengths win over the favourite *Flap* in the Adjacent race. Cottage Chest is owned by Welsh hunt-racing official Jack Thomas.

Million Dollar Man, ridden by top rider Sue Aston, and which once ran in the Derby, scored a one-length win over *National Clover* in the Ladies' Open Race.

Herbert Gibbons's *Quiz Master*, ridden by Tim Rooney, set a record when winning the Members' Race for the fifth time at the Gelligaer Farmers Hunt Steeplechases.

Twelve-year-old *Quiz Master*, who missed last year's race because of injury, scored by four lengths from the fast finishing *Trucker*. Carl Pyne, from Tonypandy, made all the running on his father's *Lucy Avenue* to record his first success in the Adjacent event.

Cowbridge's John Llewellyn took the men's open race on the odds-on *Gemmerley Jane* which beat *Friday's Meadow* and Fitz and Mandy Lingard won the ladies' open race on the favourite National Clover.

Longest priced winner of the day was *Tudor Girl* which won the maiden race at 20-1 under Daryl Plummer.

Cynthia Higgon, a steward at the Banwen Miners Hunt *Point-To-Point*, saw her eight-year-old Ferreter win the first division of the maiden race on Saturday. Ferreter was ridden by Lydstep's Richard Mathias. Mrs Higgon is also the west Wales area secretary.

Million Dollar Man, who ran in the Derby six years ago, scored a length win over *National Clover* in the ladies' open race.

Reigning Welsh champion John Llewellyn looked to have the Point-To-Point Owners' Association club race well and truly won when going to the last fence clear on *Promoter*, but he took a tumble which left the way clear for the favourite *Ashburton*.

Cowbridge farmer John Llewellyn landed a double at the Brecon Hunt Steeplechases.

He took *Gemmerley Jane* to a two-length win over ex-hurdler *If And When* in the second division of the men's open, and partnered *Matey* to an eight lengths victory over *Dance Master* in divison three of the restricted open.

In the ladies' open, odds-on favourite *National Clover* had four lengths to spare over the pacemaking *Little Trouble*. Brecon's Brian Eckley took the members' race on Glynn Valley and the maiden on *Loch Raven*.

Rose Harry's 17-year-old Fitz, a winner of 30 races, has been entered for the Gelligaer Farmers Steepelchases at Nelson on Saturday (Unfortunately, Fitz, trained at Dinas Powis, finished third behind Gemmerley Jane and Friday's Meadow).

LOCAL HORSE NORTHGEORGE IS A WINNER

An eight-year-old bay gelding called *Northgeorge*, owned by first time racehorse owner Steve Young, trained by Jonathan Tudor at Merthyr Mawr and ridden by Cowbridge's Byron Moorcroft has won the Subaru Restricted Championship.

Steve Young, head of a local medical supplies company, has given the first prize of the lease of a Subaru Forester 4WD car for a year to his jockey Byron Moorcroft who he said "... has done all the hard work".

Former leading point-to-point rider Jonathan Tudor said: "The horse has done us proud; he's had a busy season but is as tough as teak."

Northgeorge won on the opening day of the season (November 29) and had a further nine races and was a winner at the recent Llangeinor & Pentyrch Hunt Steeplechases.

FLINT'S CHEPSTOW WINNER

Bridgend trainer John Flint landed the DreamTeamFC.Com Handicap over a mile- and-a- half at his local track Chepstow last Saturday evening.

The course and distance winner, who at 10-years-old was the oldest horse in the race, won by one-and-a-half lengths from the five-year-old Insight and ridden by Daniel Muscatt went off the 3-1 favourite.

You can e-mail your point-to-point stories and pictures to brianlee4@virginmedia.com or telephone 02920736438.

BRIAN LEE

Dragon boat racing comes to the Vale

THE Rotary Club of Barry is delighted to announce that plans are well in hand for their new charity fundraising event – a 'Dragon Boat Race' – to take place on Saturday, May 28 (starting at 11am) in Cosmeston Park, thought to be the first Dragon Boat Regatta to be held in the Vale, to raise money for local charities.

Everyone is welcome to come along to watch or there is still time to register to join in the fun!

Racing involves rowers sitting side by side in long canoes with a helm to steer and a drummer sitting up front, beating out the rhythm!

Teams already registered to take part include 'Glenbrook Gladiators' and 'Redrock' from the Glenbrook Inn, 'Leisure Time' Cardiff travel company, Barry & District Spartans from B & D Scooter Club, and teams from the catering dept of Cardiff & Vale College, Barry Yacht Club Rowers, British Airways Maintenance, and a team from the town council. Organisers hope to have a full complement of 12 teams by race day.

Barry Rotary Club is grateful to KCS Transport of Aberthaw, Cater Leisure (Cosmeston café owners), Vale Aggregates, Dow Corning, and private sponsors for helping to make the event possible.

Anyone wishing to offer sponsorship or make a donation to support the event can follow the online link: *https://mydonate.bt.com/charity/search.html* and search for Barry Dragon Boat Festival.

Paul Halstead, president of Barry Rotary Club, said: "We already organise the annual Firework Fiesta on Barry Island and over its 35 year history have raised tens of thousands of pounds for worthy causes.

"We would like this event to develop in the same way so that it becomes a major date in the Vale's summer calendar."

This event is being professionally run with full safety support.

Money raised in sponsorship of the rowers will go 50 per cent to their team's chosen charity and 50 per ent to support the work of the Rotary movement.

To find out more about the Rotary Club's Dragon Boat event, go to *www.barrydragonboatfestival.co.uk* or call John Shapland on 07743426270 or email Robin Pitcher on robin.pitcher@talktalk.net or phone 02920 514051.

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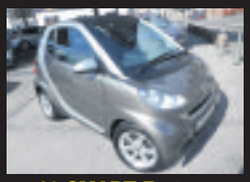

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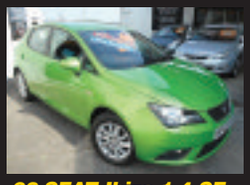

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Wenvoe Castle GC hold mixed open

Members winners Alan and Fran Grant.

Members runners-up Joff Williams and Barbara Beedham.

Visitors' runners-up Dave Bryant and Sally Kudahl of St Pierre Golf Club.

BLUE skies and sunshine greeted the competitors in the mixed open at Wenvoe Castle recently.

The course was in superb condition and reflected the considerable efforts of head greenkeeper Mark Wilshire and his team, who were out early in the morning ensuring the presentation of the course, particularly the greens, was of the highest standard.

The high entry competed for prizes which were awarded to both visitors and Wenvoe Castle members, many of whom played particularly well given the possible influence of the captain's inaugural ball, which was held the previous evening.

An impressive score of 39 points by Ian Riley and Cath Robins from Dinas Powis Golf Club won the visitors' prize. Second place went to Dave Bryant and Sally Kudahl of St Pierre Golf Club with another good score of 36 points.

The Wenvoe Castle members' prize was a very close contest, with Alan and Fran Grant posting the winning score of 38 points.

Joff Williams and Barbara Beedham also scored 38 points and were just squeezed into second place by a countback on the final six holes.

In the ball sweep there was just a single two scored throughout the day and Sally Kudahl added to her winnings by scooping the pot of 30 balls.

Club captain Paul Coombs paid particular thanks to the visitors and club members who had supported the competition and made special mention of the contribution of the greenkeepers and the bar and catering staff who had worked tirelessly through the day.

Lady captain Sandra Hathway presented the prizes and also praised the work of the club staff and gave special thanks to Wendy Motton for her hard work and very efficient administration of the competition throughout the day.

There are still some spaces to enter a team in the captain's charity day on Saturday, May 28, and all proceeds are to the captain's nominated charity Cancer Research Wales.

For details please contact club secretary Nicola Sims on 02920 594371. **BJ**

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SPIDERS SPIN THEIR WEB TO CLAIM LEAGUE TITLE!

SEND Spiders have tangled the opposition in their web and triumphed in their first ever Vale Boccia League.

The league, run by Vale Council's Sport Development Department in partnership with a number of local organisations, was made up of boccia teams: the Boccia Rollers, Hengoleg Day Centre, Scope Sully Skills Development Centre, SEND and Woodlands Day Centre.

The teams competed against each other over 10 weeks with the SEND Spiders eventually coming out on top.

Following the league games, the top four progressed into semi-finals, with the winners playing in the final. It was contested between SEND Spiders and the Vale Boccia League stalwarts Boccia Rollers, with the SEND Spiders coming out on top despite a terrific comeback by the Rollers.

Coun Gwyn John, cabinet member for visible, leisure and regulatory services, attended the final to watch the matches and present medals and trophies, and said: "Congratulations to the SEND Spiders, on winning the Vale Boccia league.

"Sport should be accessible to all and my thanks are extended to all the volunteers who organise matches, provide transport and keep scores. Without them the league would not be possible."

The sad passing of two of the longest serving players in the Boccia League earlier this year inspired the creation of awards celebrating their past participation.

Scope Superstars won the Dean Evans Team Spirit Award for their outstanding attitude throughout the League and Abbie Kenshole won the Dilwyn Williams Individual Sportsmanship Award for her inspiring performances.

Simon Jones, Disability Sport Wales development officer, said: "It's excellent to welcome new teams to the Boccia League with SEND Spiders and Scope Spiders having a very successful first year.

"All the teams performed admirably throughout the league with some excellent individual performances. The future for boccia in the Vale is looking very good."

Anyone interested in playing Boccia should contact Simon Jones on 01446 704728, or by emailing sljones@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

Local golfers enjoy club's anniversary!

Jon Holton, the men's winner.

Jordan Standing, junior winner.

Margaret Rees, ladies winner.

On May 14, 180 members enjoyed perfect golfing weather to celebrate Cottrell Park Golf Club's 20th anniversary.

Players were welcomed at registration, with on-course banners sponsored by the seniors.

The halfway house, spruced up by the juniors, enabled the ladies to serve refreshments to invigorate those playing well and encourage those in need of a boost.

Sponsorship by the resort and the men's section provided a free drink in the clubhouse after the round.

Major prizes provided by the resort management were: Men's - Jon Holton 40 points on countback; ladies - Margaret Rees, 38 points; junior - Jordan Standing 43 points. Runners-up - Chris Little, Adam Keenor.

Par-3 prizes were provided by Cottrell Park Members' Association: Nearest the pin - ladies: 4th, Helen Poole; men's: 15th, Jon Holton. Longest drive - 18th: ladies Helen Little; men's Jon Holton.

Target shot - 8th: Haydn Pike; Birdies - 12th: Tony Daly, Paul Driscoll, Neil Islam.

For more information, contact Gaynor Openshaw-Smith on 01446 781781 or email gaynor@cottrellpark.com.

Dale signs for Glamorgan CC

GLAMORGAN have concluded their search for a second overseas player by signing South African fast bowler Dale Steyn for a seven-match stint in the NatWest T20 Blast.

The 32 year old quick will arrive in Cardiff once his Indian Premier League commitments with Gujarat Lions are completed and he is scheduled to feature in home games against Essex Eagles, Hampshire, Kent Spitfires and Surrey at the SSE SWALEC stadium.

If the Lions make the final of the competition on Sunday, May 29, then Steyn will miss the Surrey fixture and face a race against time to take his place against Essex on Wednesday, June 1.

Steyn's international record includes 406 wickets in 82 Test appearances, 112 One-Day Internationals and 42 T20 Internationals.

Steyn's stay will be followed by the arrival of Shaun Tait who will spearhead the Glamorgan attack for the second half of the NatWest T20 Blast campaign.

Seven-match NatWest T20 Blast season tickets are now on sale with offers in place for the home games against Essex on Wednesday, June 1, and Hampshire on Friday, June 3 respectively.

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Barry RFC end the league season on a high after win

BARRY RFC finally completed their league season last Wednesday with a win at Clwb Rugby Caerdydd to confirm their third place in the table, a magnificent achievement in their first season at this level.

In what can only be described as a fast an open game, Barry entertained the crowd with a fine display of running rugby ably assisted by their opponents, who joined the party to give the season a send off it deserved.

The match started at a frantic pace with both sides attacking and defending at every opportunity and after Barry had been forced to defend in the early minutes they took the lead.

Following a lineout Barry spread the ball for Perry to make a decisive break creating space for White to cross for the try, which went unconverted, with the swirling wind making life difficult for the kickers.

Barry had shown their intent and continued attacking from all parts of the field. In the end, it came down to good handling skills and only some very solid defending from Clwb kept them out.

Clwb were quick to take advantage of Barry errors and looked dangerous on the counter attack and all Barry's defensive qualities were needed.

After being on the receiving end for a time, Barry turned Clwb over from a drop out and again set the backs into action and fine hands saw the ball reach Adams to cross for the second try which had begun 70 metres back. The kick was unsuccessful but Barry had a 10 point lead.

The work of the Barry eight on the floor was exceptional, creating turnovers enabling Barry to play on the front foot and continue to threaten the hard-working Clwb defence.

This is not to say it was one way traffic and had Barry's first-up tackling not been at its best, Clwb could well have scored on more than one occasion.

As it was they were rewarded from a penalty after 30 minutes to make the score 10-3.

With the game so open, either side looked likely to get the next score but after Clwb had spurned a good chance it was Barry who went further ahead, after quick ball from loose play saw the ball move across the line for White to get his second try and, with the extras added by Barross, give Barry a 14 point advantage at half-time.

Barry began the second half in the same vein as the first and launched attacks from the off creating chances, but not getting that important final pass to hand.

They also had to contend with counter attacks from Clwb who were not ready to lie down and continued to threaten and keep Barry on their toes.

After weathering a series of Clwb attacks Barry were to go further ahead as a scrum against the head enabled them to spread the ball quickly creating the space for Jones to cross for an unconverted try.

The next 10 minutes belonged to Clwb as they suddenly found some space in the Barry defence and scored two tries in as many minutes to reduce the deficit to seven points after 60 minutes.

Barry's game became more cautious as they strove to defend their lead and the reliable left boot of Barross ensured that Clwb were having to attack from deep.

Changes in the Barry side were made and soon after they were awarded a penalty, kicked by Barross, to provide a cushion.

An outstanding feature in the team this year has been its strength in the last part of the match, as was obvious in the last two recent wins and it seems they enjoy living on a knife edge.

So it was again this week as they applied pressure on the Clwb defence in the end, forcing it to concede a further penalty, again kicked by Barross, for a 13 point lead.

The pressure continued as a penalty put Barry back on Clwb 22 where a good line out saw Evans burst through from midfield to cross for an excellent try, converted by Barross to make the score 35-15 with minutes left.

There was still time for one more score which saw Clwb reduce the lead with a converted try and brought an end to the game, which finished 35-22.

A fine end to what has been a hugely successful season for Barry who, after losing three of their first four fixtures, have lost only three times in the remaining 18, with two of those being against runaway league winners Porth.

We must congratulate all of the players, superbly led by James Hadfield, who have produced performances throughout the season for which they should be proud and that have achieved so much for both themselves and the club.

What happens on the field is usually an indication of what happens off it, and for that reason we must recognise the enormous part played by the coaching team of Jon Bryant, Liam and Rhyddian Scott in the success the team has had this year. Roll on 2016-17!

AJ

Brynhill ladies battle the rain!

ON Tuesday, May 17, the ladies of Brynhill Golf Club met to compete in ladies captain Mrs Liz Fine's prize competition.

A few rain showers didn't dampen the competition to win a beautiful Swarovski necklace.

The lucky winners were:

Silver division, Mrs Sam Pascoe 36 points; bronze division, Mrs Jane Phillips 34 points.

An evening meal and a game of bingo concluded a very enjoyable day.

ET

The Barry and District league tables and results

CRIB DIVISION 1:

League table: Rhoose Social 188, Wyndham Cons 185, West End 182, Liberals 180, West End Runaways 180, Cadoxton Cons 177, Moors Boys 168.

SKITTLES DIVISION 1:

Sea View B 1.5, Liberals C 5.5; King William XII 2, Rhoosters 5; Allsorts 2, West End C 5; Rhoose Social C 5, Rhoose Social B 2; West End D 4, Rhoose Social A 3; Liberals A 0, Cambrian Flyers 7; Barries Boys 1, Rugby Club 6.

League table: Sea View B 134.5, West End D 118, Barries Boys 105.5, Rugby Club 105, King William XII 101.5, West End C 95.5, Slammers 94, Rhoose Social A 94, Rhoose Social B 91.5, Allsorts 84, Rhoose Social C 83, Rhoosters 80, Liberals C 76, Cambrian Flyers 68.5, Liberals A 62.

SNOOKER DIVISION 1:

Market Street C 1, Cadoxton Cons B 4; Rhoose Social C 4, Penarth Cons B 1; Cadoxton Cons Z 3, Wyndham Cons A 2; Rhoose Social B 3, Savoy A 2; West End C 4, Caddy Allstars 1.

League table: Savoy A 112, Harbour B 109, Cadoxton Cons B 93, Wyndham Cons A 79, West End C 76, *Cadoxton Cons Z 73, Caddy Allstars 55, Rhoose Social B 54, Rhoose Social C 54, Penarth Cons B 47, Market Street C 44. (* = points deducted)

SNOOKER DIVISION 2:

Sully Sports A 1, Wyndham Cons C 4; West End B 3, Services Social B 2; Savoy B 4, Cadoxton Cons A 1; Penarth Cons A 4, Wyndham Cons D 1; Market Street B 4, West End A.

League table: Services Social B 93, Penarth Cons A 90, Liberators 88, Savoy B 87, Market Street B 86, Wyndham Cons C 77 Cadoxton Cons A 64 Sully Sports A 60 West End A 60 West End B 46 Wyndham Cons D 44.

All league and cup fixtures and results at www.barryleagues.co.uk and on Facebook - search for 'barry leagues'.

JW

Imps are under-14s champions!

CADOXTON IMPS under-14s have enjoyed a brilliant season without defeat, winning 17 and drawing just two of the season's games, scoring 106 goals and conceding only 22.

A fantastic effort from all the boys, with excellent football being played and great consistency shown week in, week out.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the parents, our sponsors Rumney Hill Garage and GMF Motor Factors and the Cadoxton Imps Committee for their support.

GO

BARRY CHESS CLUB NEWS ROUND-UP

THE Quarks and Gambits have both played their final games in the East Glamorgan League.

All of our teams have now completed their league games with the sixth and seventh rounds of the Barry Chess Club Championship still to play.

The Gambits in division 4 made the trip to Bridgend to play the unbeaten divisional champions, the Bridgend Central Mallards.

We lost the reverse fixture 5-0 so didn't really expect to collect any points here. In the end a win for Stephen Bonutto on top board prevented the whitewash so we returned home with a 4-1 defeat.

This leaves the Gambits in eighth place, a country mile away from seventh place but this is really where we should have expected to finish when so many of the players selected for this team were inexperienced.

Hopefully next season with more experience we can move up the table.

The Quarks faced the Caerphilly Rooks in a relegation showdown.

At the start of the season we would have taken this scenario knowing that our fate is in our own hands.

The Caerphilly committee had requested before the season started that no more than two of their teams should be playing on any one day.

It was surprising, therefore, that when all four of their teams requested a postponement, three of them agreed to play on the same night! This would surely stretch their resources - and so it proved.

The Quarks picked a strong team and recorded a victory by 4.5-0.5 to secure our status in division 3 for another season. In fact the teams were so close that this result moved us up to an unexpected high to finish fifth.

The Rooks had another match to play against the Pontypridd Phoenix. Pontypridd rang out as winners by a margin of 3-2, which meant that the Rooks took the final relegation spot.

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7.30 pm each Monday at the West End Club. St. Nicholas Road, Barry CF62 6QY.

The club is open to players of all standards; whether you are interested in playing competitive chess or just the occasional friendly games.

New players are very welcome to just turn up on the night but if you contact one of the club members through the website we can explain what is happening on the night you have in mind, and arrange for someone to greet you on your arrival.

For more details visit our website at http://barrychessclub.yolasite.com.

PHIL JONES

Go to the Barry GEM for the latest stories and breaking news... www.barry-today.co.uk